

(The President)

Mr. VELAYATI (Islamic Republic of Iran):

The insane arms race poses a threat to the whole human community and it therefore deserves a lot of attention by any country. Apart from its universal dimensions, the subject is crucial to us for several reasons. Our country is located in a very sensitive and strategic region, under threat from direct military rivalries of the super-Powers. We have been witness to the increase of their spheres of influence and military presence in the countries of the region. The sophisticated arms delivery to the countries of the region in the past two decades is comparable with the total amount delivered to the Third World and developing countries. From the inception of the Iraqi aggression on 22 September 1980, we have been subjected to and victimized by the most sophisticated conventional and chemical weapons. We have directly experienced human loss and material damage and I am now addressing you with the deep feelings and complete comprehension of the effects of these weapons. Although we have countered and neutralized the weapons delivered by East and West, thanks to the self-sacrifice of our young, we are gradually increasing our awareness of the sensitivity attached to the international efforts for the reduction of the arms race. This awareness, particularly concerning the inhuman chemical weapons, is growing deeper and stronger. I am sorry that I have to start my statement from this very same subject, and more unfortunate still is the fact that the use of mass-killing chemical weapons has been repeated.

You are all aware of the latest report, issued in March 1986, document S/17911, filed by a United Nations team dispatched by the United Nations Secretary-General to probe into the use of chemical weapons. As you know, this is the third consecutive report. In 1984, the United Nations confirmed that chemical weapons were used in Iraqi aggression against Iran, and in 1985 the repeated use was reaffirmed after afflicted Iranians were sent for