

(Mr. Kazemi Kamyab, Islamic Republic of Iran)

This savage action was reflected in the international mass media and various countries of the world, while condemning such a vile act, placed their medical possibilities at the disposal of those afflicted by chemical weapons. The International Committee of the Red Cross and a number of specialists and medical laboratories did not fail to condemn this act.

It was encouraging to note that within this Conference itself a number of esteemed Ambassadors and other high-ranking dignitaries condemned this act in their statements and called for urgent steps to curb such genocidal acts. Of course, a number of countries, for reasons known to all, have refrained from reflecting their views and opinions.

Although the reaction of the world with regard to the use of chemical weapons was appreciable, yet, with regard to such a regime which deems itself not bound by international law and principles, even those to which it is itself a signatory, it does not appear to have been sufficient. The inadequacy of the reaction is reflected in the non-adherence of the Iraqi regime to international undertakings by the re-use of this weapon after the return of the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations from a fact-finding visit to the Islamic Republic concerning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq. These weapons have, since then, been used on more than 24 occasions against my country, the latest being two weeks ago against the city of Abadan. Another statistical example of the inadequacy of the world reaction with regard to the use of chemical weapons is the refusal of Iraq to answer the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to renew its pledge to respect the 1925 Geneva Protocol calling for a ban on the use of chemical weapons.

In his appeal, the Secretary-General points out that "It is a deplorable fact that chemical weapons have been used in contravention of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, as substantiated by the specialists' mission in March 1984". Then he voices his serious anguish by the following words: "For those reasons I cannot remain indifferent to the advancing indications that such weapons might be used again" and he makes the appeal that "... in order to alleviate the inhumanity of warfare, each undertakes a solemn commitment not to use chemical weapons of any kind for any reason". The Secretary-General rightly concludes his appeal by the just indication that "this will be highly significant not only for its immediate effects but also for its future implications for other States which might be involved in conflict".

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran commended the appeal made by the Secretary-General and responded immediately to his request. The response from the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out that despite the fact that the Iraqi regime, in contravention of all international norms and conventions, has resorted to extensive use of chemical weapons against our people, the Islamic Republic of Iran is by no means inclined to make use of such weapons of mass destruction.

An alarming indication of possible future uses is to be inferred from this situation. The refusal is expressed in a manner so blunt as to indicate the horrifying intention on the part of the Iraqi regime to make further use of chemical weapons today and in the course of the future.

It is because of these sad developments that we are of the view that in the new convention on chemical weapons, effective international measures and collective actions should be envisaged to provide assistance to the victims and to punish