

(Mr. Alfarargi, Egypt)

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With regard to political principles, I wish to point out that the dispute between Iran and Iraq relates to the use of chemical weapons. Iran has accused Iraq of using chemical weapons, and Iraq has made a similar accusation against Iran. In fact, chemical weapons are among the items on the agenda of this Conference, and many delegations have said that this is the item on which we are most likely to reach agreement. Moreover, we all know that membership of this Conference should be regarded as a privilege but not a monopoly of the group of 40 States. In other words, we should give non-member States the opportunity to participate in the work of this Conference in so far as is permitted by the rules of procedure and the resolution of the General Assembly.

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Mr. SHAFII (Islamic Republic of Iran): Thank you, Mr. President. My delegation listened with interest to the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt. The distinguished Ambassador of Egypt tried to place his arguments for helping Iraq to participate in the work of the Conference on a legal basis. I am afraid to say that the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt, who attaches much importance to this legal basis, is forgetting one very important violation of one of the most important conventions and protocols that we have, and that is the Geneva Protocol of 1925. In the course of this Conference, in the meetings that we have had, we have been careful to see if the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt or his delegation would say a word about the violation of the Geneva Protocol by Iraq, or not, and -- not to our surprise -- we noticed that no word has been said by the Egyptian delegation in this regard. On the contrary, when the violator of the Geneva Protocol wants to participate in the Conference, not from a sincere desire to help or contribute to the work of the Conference but for its own political ends, the Ambassador of Egypt tries to help him to get into the Conference.

The distinguished Ambassador of Egypt said that if we do not accept the request of Iraq we contradict ourselves. Allow me to say to the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt: "Your Excellency, you are in contradiction with yourself in what you say and in what you do. While you support the legal basis or respect for this law, at the same time you ignore a very important violation of a very important convention."

The distinguished Ambassador of Egypt referred to an accusation made by Iraq concerning the use of chemical weapons by Iran, or he said that Iraq says it has not used chemical weapons. I do believe, Mr. President, that this is an old story, and the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt himself knows quite well that he is not telling the truth. He knows that Iraq has used chemical weapons, and he knows that we have not used them, and while I am speaking here a United Nations delegation is there trying to find out for themselves whether Iran has used chemical weapons or not. But before the results of the investigation come out, let me just tell everybody that we have never used chemical weapons and that it is a very close friend of Egypt, Iraq, which is using chemical weapons consistently.