

# *A Chronology of Events Relating to Iraq and Chemical & Biological Warfare*

**1987**  
Second Quarter  
Sample file

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As with any compilation of this size, there is always a difficulty in deciding at what point to stop collating material and organize and refine the document for publication.

This working draft is, of necessity therefore, a snapshot of the progress towards the final publication. The intention for producing working drafts is to enable reviews of the work in progress. As the final publication format has yet to be decided, sample files are being posted in the form of annual sub-sets of the draft chronologies. Those interested in reviewing or contributing to fuller drafts are encouraged to contact Richard Guthrie at <[richard@cbw-events.org.uk](mailto:richard@cbw-events.org.uk)>.

Richard Guthrie  
[richard@cbw-events.org.uk](mailto:richard@cbw-events.org.uk)

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## **Introduction**

### **Sources and methodology**

The information gathered for this chronology comes from open-source documentation (such as news reports, academic papers, published governmental and inter-governmental reports, and national archives). Some of the material has been gathered directly by Richard Guthrie. Much of the rest of the material has been collected by other current or former members the Harvard Sussex Program (HSP) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). As in any exercise such as this, the compilation of material has been a collective effort.

### **Chronology entries**

All chronology entries are written in the present tense. Entries for the same date are put in the sequence of events that happened (if specific times are known) or are placed in the order that dawn rises around the world. This means that entries for Japan, for example, will appear before Iran, which will appear before Iraq, which will appear before Germany. Specific times for events are given in GMT/UTC, where known, and local time if that has been specified.

Holding entries are preceded by the letter 'H' to indicate this status. Entries with outstanding queries relating to them are preceded by the letter 'Q'.

**6 April 1987** In Tunis, a three-day Ministerial Meeting of the League of Arab States concludes. During the meeting, the League adopts a resolution on the Iran–Iraq War. While the resolution specifically refers to UN Security Council resolution 582 [see 24 February 1986], it makes no direct reference to the use of chemical weapons during the war.[1]

[1] The text of the resolution is appended to: *Letter dated 28 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18829-A/42/257, 28 April 1987.

**9 April 1987** The Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, addresses the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He proposes that ‘all we signatories to [the 1925 Geneva] Protocol, through one international announcement, re-express our commitments to this Protocol, as well as our determination to prevent any further violation of it by all international ways and means’. He says that the latest Iraqi chemical weapons attack had occurred on 19 March (later amended to 9 April[1]). He circulates a list of past instances.[2] The list states that Iraq has used CW weapons on more than 196 occasions, killing more than 262 people and injuring 27 309.

[1] Statement of Iranian delegate Mashhadi to the CD in plenary session, CD/PV.406, pp 30-32.

[2] Statement of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to the CD in plenary session, 9 April 1987, CD/PV.404, pp 5-8.

**11 April 1987** Iraq carries out two aerial attacks against the Department of Water in Khorramshahr, killing or wounding 20 civil servants, so Iran claims in a letter to the UN Secretary-General. The letter also claims that these are in addition to other attacks that had started the previous day in which Iraq used mustard in 2 artillery shells and 40 rockets, killing or wounding 120 people.[1] IRNA reports attacks on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, and on several villages in Khuzestan province, with chemical bombs delivered from aircraft. The agency claims that anti-chemical units are deployed to neutralize the weapons.[2] Other reporting lists the IRNA claims as relating to the ‘Nim Istgah-e-Navad sector in the southern warfront’.[3]

A second letter from Iran to the UN Secretary-General claims Iraq has ‘repeatedly resorted to chemical warfare on a very large scale on 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 April 1987. Residential areas were the main target of these recent Iraqi chemical attacks, as a result of which in the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr and the village of Mared at least 100 civilians were injured by chemical agents.’ The letter calls for ‘a mandatory embargo on the export to Iraq of chemical agents and the technology necessary for the production of these illegal weapons’ and calls on the Secretary-General ‘to dispatch immediately a United Nations team to investigate the results of the most recent chemical attacks’.[4]

Iran later claims that these attacks on Khorramshahr result in a death toll of 200 with over 3000 wounded.[5]

[1] *Letter dated 13 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18799-A/42/219, 13 April 1987.

[2] [no author listed] (from Tehran), ‘Iranian Planes Raid Iraqi Positions Near Basra’, Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 11 April 1987, ref 0411020; [no author listed] (from Tehran), Agence

France Presse, as in: ‘Gulf War enemies both claim successes’, *Independent* (London), 11 April 1987, p 6.

[3] [No author listed] (from Nicosia), ‘Iran Appeals for UN Observers to Investigate Chemical Weapons Claims’, Associated Press, 13 April 1987.

[4] *Letter dated 13 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18800-A/42/220, 13 April 1987. See also *Letter dated 28 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18829-A/42/257, 28 April 1987.

[5] Tyler Marshall (from Fish Canal, Iranian-Occupied Iraq), ‘Craters, barbed wire and parapets / Ferocity of Iran-Iraq War recalls trenches of WW I’, *Los Angeles Times*, 22 April 1987, p. 1.

**14 April 1987** Iraq lodges a complaint with the UN Secretary-General alleging Iranian use of phosgene against Iraqi troops on the southern front the previous weekend [see 11 April], killing 9 and injuring 376.[1] The charge is denied by the Iranian War Information Headquarters, whose spokesman says that the allegation is aimed at covering-up Iraq’s extensive chemical weapons operations in the same region.[2] A subsequent statement from the War Information Headquarters speaks of atmospheric conditions in some quarters having caused phosgene used by the Iraqis to have seeped back into their own positions.[3]

[1] *Letter dated 15 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18806, 15 April 1987. A letter dated 14 April 1987 from Tariq Aziz is annexed herein. See also: [no author listed], ‘Iran uses phosgene, Iraq claims’, *Washington Times*, 17 April 1987, p 6.

[2] IRNA (in English) (from Tehran), 0943 GMT 17 April 1987, as reported in FBIS-SA of 17 April 1987, p I10.

[3] Tehran domestic service, 1030 GMT 21 April 1987, as reported in FBIS-ME, 22 April 1987, p I2.

**15 April 1987** Iraqi aircraft carry out attacks with chemical weapons at 1900 hours in the Kooh-E-Noori area in the Sardasht operational theatre, according to information provided by Iranian authorities to the UN Secretary-General.[1]

[1] *Letter dated 28 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18829-A/42/257, 28 April 1987

**16 April 1987** Iraq drops ‘chemical bombs’ on the Iranian villages of Kandari and Aloo, described as being closed to the border with Iraq ‘in the vicinity of the city of Baneh’, according to a letter from Iran to the UN Secretary-General. Ten villagers are said to be injured.[1]

[1] *Letter dated 16 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18809, 16 April 1987.

**16 April 1987** Iraq bombs the Kurdish villages of Zakho and Dhuk in northern Iraq, using chemical weapons, injuring 160 villagers, according to IRNA.[1] Chemical attacks on several other Kurdish villages are subsequently alleged, according to Kurdish sources.[2] It is later reported that these chemical weapons attacks had started within 24 hours after a combined force of Iranian revolutionary guards and Kurdish guerrillas had, on 14 April, overrun Iraqi military bases and

fortifications in fighting which prefaced the Iranian ‘Karbala 10’ offensive in the north.[3] Later reporting lists attacks on the Kurdish villages of Balisan and Sheikh Wasinan with chemical weapons on this date, killing 750 out of the 2000 residents.[4]

Large numbers of Kurdish refugees are soon crossing into Iran — 3760 by mid-May, including 660 from Halabja.[5] In mid-May, the *Washington Post* reports that Iraqi Kurdish rebel officials in Tehran allege that, since 14 April, Iraqi planes have dropped mustard gas on at least two dozen Kurdish villages, killing 33 and injuring more than 450. The paper interviews an Iranian doctor, Ali Rezar Albabi, who is a visiting general practitioner from Tehran treating Kurdish victims of mustard gas in the Iranian border town of Baneh. The doctor says that all Iranian doctors have now received training in treating chemical warfare casualties.[6]

[1] IRNA dispatch of 18 April 1987, as in *Newsletter* (Iranian Embassy, London) no 13 (23 April 1987), pp 5-6; Alex Efty (from Nicosia), ‘Iranians Say Their Forces, Allied with Kurds, Kill 1,500 Iraqi Troops’, Associated Press, 18 March 1987.

[2] Tehran domestic service in Persian, 1030 and 1630 GMT 21 April 1987, as translated in FBIS-ME, 22 April 1987, p I2-3; Jalal Talabani (Secretary-General, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan), ‘Appeal to the world public opinion on the use of poison gas and chemical weapons in Iraqi Kurdistan’, 22 April 1987.

[3] Helga Graham, ‘Kurds accuse Iraq of chemical attack’, *Independent* (London), 21 April 1987; Liz Thurgood, ‘Kurdish villages “hit in gas raids”’, *Guardian* (London), 2 May 1987, p 5.

[4] Dilshad Kawani, ‘The other Halabjas’, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 8 June 2005.

[5] IRNA, 21 May 1987, as in: ‘International organisations called on to witness plight of Iraqi Kurds’, *News Letter* (Iranian Embassy, London) no 18, 28 May 87, p 8; Liz Thurgood, ‘Iraqi Kurds flee over Iran border’, *Guardian* (London), 22 May 1987, p. 11.

[6] Loren Jenkins (from Baneh), ‘Iranians Detail Charges of Gas Warfare’, *Washington Post*, 11 May 1987, p. A1.

**Q 18 April 1987** Iran asks the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme to send a delegation to investigate Iraqi use of chemical weapons, ‘which have a very destructive and dangerous impact on the environment and ecology systems’.[1] *[\*name?? BBC-SWB source??\*]*

[1] Tehran domestic service, 1030 GMT 18 April 1987, as reported in FBIS-SA(?), 20 April 1987, p I2.

**20 April 1987** IRNA reports that Iraq has ‘chemically bombed’ 16 Kurdish villages east of Erbil province and north of Sulaymaniyah during the ‘Fath 5’ operations of the last week [see 16 April]. An Iranian commander describes two unexploded chemical bombs and ‘tens of chemical victims including many children and women’ as ‘undeniable evidence’.

[1] IRNA, 0820 GMT 20 April 1987, as reported in ‘Iranian Military Communiques and Reports’, BBC-SWB, 25 April 1987, ME/8551/A/1.

**20 April 1987** A UN official announces the decision of the UN Secretary-General to send an investigating team to both Iraq and to Iran; the same four experts as in the previous investigations [see 14 March 1986] would be dispatched — Dr Gustav Andersson (Sweden), Col Dr Manuel Dominguez (Spain), Dr Peter Dunn (Australia) and Col Ulrich Imobersteg (Switzerland). The four experts are said to have already gathered in Frankfurt ready to travel to the region as soon as

assurances for the safety of the team have been received from both sides in the Iran–Iraq War.[1] The specialists are once again accompanied by Iqbal Riza from the UN Secretariat.

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden, announcing the involvement of Peter Dunn, says that the Australian government is appalled by reports that chemical weapons may again have been used in the Gulf War and therefore readily agrees to make Dunn available to take part in the new investigation. Hayden says his government believes there is a need for a continued effort on the part of the international community to ensure that all reports of chemical warfare are promptly and thoroughly investigated.[2]

[1] [no author listed] (from UN New York), ‘U.N. to investigate Gulf War’, Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 20 April 1987, ref 0420067.

[2] [no author listed] (Canberra), ‘Australia joins UN chemical weapons investigations’, Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 21 April 1987, ref 0421152.

**21 April 1987** Iraqi planes drop chemical bombs in the Cham-Para operational theatre in the Baneh region (on the northwestern front) at 0500 and 1000 GMT, wounding 12 Iranians, so IRNA reports.[1]

Within a week, Iranian authorities tell the UN Secretary-General that Iraqi forces ‘deployed chemical weapons in the Baneh and Sardasht areas, injuring 60 people’.[2]

[1] IRNA, 1957 GMT 22 April 1987, as reported in ‘Iranian Military Communiques and Reports’, BBC-SWB, 25 April 1987, ME/8551/A/1.

[2] *Letter dated 27 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18825-A/42/253, 27 April 1987.

**Q 21 April 1987** Iran’s Representative to the United Nations writes to the Secretary-General suggesting Iraqi chemical weapon production facilities ‘present a grave threat to the authority and integrity of the rules of international law’ and that, therefore, ‘the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary to call on the United Nations expert team — which for the first time has been given the opportunity to visit Iraq *[\*when did IQ agree access??\*]* — to inspect these facilities. The provision of the necessary mandate to the expert team to visit and prepare a report on such facilities would illustrate your commitment to deal effectively with the problem at its foundations in order to prevent further use of these illegal weapons’. The Iranian Government offers to provide the team with the locations of the relevant facilities.[1]

[1] *Letter dated 21 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18819-A/42/237, 21 April 1987.

**22 April 1987** Iraqi aircraft carry out attacks with chemical weapons at 1900 hours in Baneh and surrounding villages, according to information provided by Iranian authorities to the UN Secretary-General.[1]

[1] *Letter dated 28 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18829-A/42/257, 28 April 1987.

**22 April 1987** In Rome, a communiqué issued by the Iranian embassy states that the Italian chemical firm Montedison has been one of Iraq's suppliers of material for chemical weapons [see 11 March 1984 and 1 December 1986].[1]

[1] ANSA from Rome in English, 1013 GMT 23 April 1987, as in FBIS-WE, 24 April 1987, p L1.

**26 April 1987** Iran reports Iraqi use of chemical weapons in a counterattack against Iranian advances in the 'northwestern operational region'.[1]

[1] IRNA from Karbala'-10 Operational Region in English, 0959 GMT 27 April 1987, as in FBIS-ME, 27 April 1987, p I2.

**29 April 1987** In London, draft 'Guidelines for the Overseas Promotion and Supply of NBC Defence Equipment', prepared by Lt Col Richard Glazebrook of the Ministry of Defence, are circulated within the British Government.[1]

On the countries fighting in the Gulf region, the draft guidelines read: 'The supply of any item which might assist IRAN or IRAQ to wage chemical warfare will not be authorised. Therefore current policy is to prevent the sale or diversion of defensive CW equipment to IRAN or IRAQ'. On countries 'Known or Suspected of Diverting' to Iran or Iraq, the draft guidelines read: 'Sales must be limited to quantities not exceeding the requirement of the Armed Forces of the customer country concerned. The size of the Armed Forces will be advised by the DIS [Defence Intelligence Staff] and their requirement is deemed to be similar to that of the British Forces ... DESO [Defence Export Services Organisation] will need to consider whether it is necessary to warn companies that a "quota system" is being operated'.

Annexed to the memo is a heavily-deleted list of countries known or suspected to have been involved in diversion of military supplies to Iran or Iraq: Austria, [deleted], Egypt, [deleted], Jordan, Kuwait, [deleted], Portugal, Saudi Arabia, [deleted].

[Note: This letter remains classified until a copy is released by the Scott Inquiry in 1996.]

[1] Loose Minute, 29 April 1987, marked 'Secret' and released as evidence to the Scott Inquiry, reference MOD/399.1.3.

**6 May 1987** The UN Secretary-General receives the report of the mission he had dispatched [see 20 April] to both Iraq and Iran to investigate the complaints of chemical weapons which each had lodged against the other [see 11 and 14 April].[1] The report confirms the use by Iraq of CW agents against Iranian civilians as well as soldiers and that Iraqi military personnel, too, had displayed injuries caused by CW agents, but the evidence regarding the source of those injuries was inconclusive.

In their letter of transmittal, the team members recount: 'Although the number of chemical casualties we saw in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the severity of their injuries was considerably less than seen by us in 1986, we were very disturbed to find that there now have been numerous civilian casualties as a result of attacks by mustard gas. In a hospital in Tehran we saw the effects of mustard gas on a peasant family, particularly a mother and her two small daughters aged two and four

years. We had the distressing experience of witnessing the suffering of the four-year-old child less than two hours before her death. In addition, we saw the very damaging effects of mustard gas on the young mother, who was four months pregnant'.

Pleading for everything possible to be done to stop the use of chemical weapons in the war, the experts note: 'It is vital to realize that the continued use of chemical weapons in the present conflict increases the risk of their use in future conflicts'. They also note that the team members have now conducted three missions to the Islamic Republic of Iran and one to Iraq and: 'We all firmly believe that, at the specialist level, we have done all that we can to identify the types of chemicals and chemical weapons being used in the Iran-Iraq conflict. If, in the future, a further mission is requested, then we will of course all be ready to respond. However, we now feel that technically there is little more that we can do that is likely to assist the United Nations in its efforts to prevent the use of chemical weapons in the present conflict'.

The report of the investigation team concludes: '(a) There has been repeated use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces by Iraqi forces, employing aerial bombs and very probably rockets. The chemical agents used are mustard gas (yperite) and probably, on some occasions, nerve agents; (b) A new dimension is that civilians in Iran also have been injured by chemical weapons; (c) Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents, which are mustard gas (yperite) and a pulmonary irritant, possibly phosgene'.

The report is circulated to the members of the Council on 8 May and published on 13 May.

[Note: rumours circulate that this investigation mission encountered Iraqi Kurds suffering from injuries caused by attacks by Iraqi armed forces use of chemical weapons [see 16 April], but this was considered to be outside the remit of the team to include in this report. However, the information is said to have been conveyed to the office of the Secretary-General by other means.]

[1] *Report of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq*, UN document S/18852, 8 May 1987 and Corr.1, 26 May 1987; and, as an Addendum, 'Appendix III. Summary report on patients examined by the medical specialist...', UN doc S/18852/Add.1, 18 May 1987.

**7 May 1987** Around 50 Iranian soldiers are apparently exposed to mustard gas during an Iraqi attack in the town of Sarsul just inside Iran.[1]

[1] Loren Jenkins (from Baneh), 'Iranians Detail Charges of Gas Warfare', *Washington Post*, 11 May 1987, p. A1.

**8 May 1987** Iraqi aircraft drop chemical weapons on civilian areas in the Bolhassan region of Baneh province, according to Iranian claims the following day.[1]

[Note: There may be some confusion in reporting between this event and the one the day before. The locations are only some 25 km apart.]

[1] Mona Ziade (from Nicosia), 'Iran Says Iraqis Used Outlawed Chemical Bombs', *Associated Press*, 9 May 1987.

**13 May 1987** The report of the latest UN Secretary-General's investigation into allegations of use of chemical weapons is made public [see 6 May].

The Secretary-General's introduction to the report includes: 'In transmitting the report of the mission of specialists ... to the Security Council, the Secretary-General cannot but express his deep dismay at the mission's conclusions about the continued use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The specialists' findings that chemical weapons were again used against Iranian forces by Iraqi forces, also causing injuries to civilians in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that now also Iraqi forces have sustained injuries from chemical weapons must add new urgency to the grave concerns of the international community. The fact that the use of chemical weapons continues despite repeated appeals by the Security Council and the Secretary-General gives rise to the fear that such use could escalate and seriously undermine the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which has heretofore been considered one of the most worthy and successful attempts by the international community to mitigate the effects of war'.<sup>[1]</sup>

The publication of the report receives considerable press coverage.<sup>[2]</sup>

[1] *Report of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq*, UN document S/18852, 8 May 1987.

[2] For example: [no author listed] (from UN New York), 'UN Team Says Poison Gas Still Used in Iran-Iraq War', Associated Press, 13 May 1987; [no author listed] (from UN New York), 'U.N. chief urges to end use of chemical weapons in Gulf War', Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 16 May 1987, ref 0513060; [no author listed] (from UN New York), 'Iraq Chemical War Cited In UN', *New York Times*, 14 May 1987, p. A14; [no author listed], 'Iraq Used Chemical Weapons', *Financial Times* (London), 14 May 1987, p. 14.

**14 May 1987** The UN Security Council, acting on the report of the Secretary-General's investigatory mission to Iran and Iraq [see 13 May], issues a condemnation of the continued use of chemical weapons.<sup>[1]</sup> The key paragraph of the statement reads: 'Deeply dismayed by the unanimous conclusions of the specialists that there has been repeated use of chemical weapons against Iranian forces by Iraqi forces, that civilians in Iran also have been injured by chemical weapons, and that Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents, the members of the Council again strongly condemn the repeated use of chemical weapons in open violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, in which the use of chemical weapons in war is clearly prohibited'.

Two days later, the Iranian Foreign Ministry expresses regret that the Security Council issued a statement lacking 'executive teeth'.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Iraqi representative to the UN writes to the Secretary-General: 'The Council states that "Iraqi military personnel have sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents", without actually affirming that Iran has resorted to the use of chemical weapons of which Iraqi forces have been the victims'. The letter claims that this wording — which appears both in the mission's report and the Security Council statement — amounts to a 'serious shortcoming on the part of the mission'.<sup>[3]</sup>

[1] *Note by the President of the Security Council*, UN document S/18863, 14 May 1987.

[2] [No author listed] (from Tehran), 'Iran Blasts UN Security Council for its Weak Blame on Iraq', Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 16 May 1987, ref 0516029.

[3] *Letter dated 18 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18870, 18 May 1987.

**21 May 1987** Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati writes to the UN Secretary-General, saying: 'It is imperative that, before Iraq again resorts to chemical weapons, this critical matter be brought to the attention of the Security Council and that the Secretary-General, with the Council's endorsement, renew his appeal of 29 June 1984 which is yet to be answered by Iraq. He might as well call on all States and concerned international organizations to make concerted efforts in order to persuade the Iraqi regime to undertake not to use chemical weapons. Moreover, all States should be called upon to refrain from exporting various chemicals which can be converted to chemical weapons'.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] *Letter dated 21 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18878, 26 May 1987.

**25 May 1987** The Foreign Ministers of the European Communities issue a statement on the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iraq and Iran: 'The Twelve are deeply concerned by the unanimous conclusions reached by the experts sent to the region by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which were contained in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 14 May 1987. It emerges from their report to the Secretary-General of 8 May 1987 that Iraqi forces have once again used chemical weapons against Iranian troops. Furthermore, the experts have also established both that Iraqi troops have suffered losses caused by this type of weapon, and that the civilian population in Iran has been subjected to attacks with chemical weapons. This makes clear that the dispositions of the 1925 Geneva Protocol have been repeatedly violated, despite pressing appeals from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council. The Twelve strongly condemn these flagrant breaches, and reiterate that they will continue to develop their internal arrangements in order to ensure that the Geneva Protocol is respected. It is the responsibility of the world community as a whole to ensure that the Protocol is respected. The Twelve urgently appeal for an immediate end to the use of chemical weapons in the conflict involving these two countries'.<sup>[1]</sup> [See also 26 January.]

The statement is released on the first day of a two-day meeting.<sup>[2]</sup>

[1] 'Statement issued at Brussels on 25 May 1987 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 12 States members of the European Community on the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iraq and Iran', as appended to: *Letter dated 26 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18879-A/41/990, 27 May 1987.

[2] [no author listed] (from Brussels), 'EEC calls for halt to chemical weapons use in Gulf War', Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 29 May 1987, ref 0525058.

**26–27 May 1987** At the Holmenkollen Symposium on the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in Oslo, the Dutch ambassador to the CD, Robert van Schaik, says: ‘The use of chemical weapons, as has recently again been reported in the Iraq–Iran war, is not a stroke of bad luck. The recent report [see 13 May] of the mission dispatched by the Secretary-General of the UN to investigate allegations on the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq is a sign on the wall. This time the mission did not only, as in 1984 [see 26 March 1984], 1985 [see 24 April 1985] and 1986 [see 14 March 1986], report on the continued use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi forces, it also reported on civil victims as well as on Iraqi forces having suffered sustained injuries from chemical warfare agents. This, as the report says, “adds new urgency to the grave concern of the international community”.’[1]

[1] Statement by Amb. Robert J van Schaik, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament.

**6 June 1987** A *New York Times* reporter visiting emplacements of the Iraqi IV Corps near Amarah notes ‘The few soldiers seen in the forward positions all carried Kalashnikov assault rifles and gas masks slung at their waists’. The journalist is told that a Western diplomat in Baghdad does not believe chemical weapons had been used in the sector near Amarah and the Iraqi bunkers there had not been made gas-proof.[1]

[1] Bernard E. Trainor (from Amarah), ‘At the Front in Iraq: Heat, Haze and the Threat of Human Waves’, *New York Times*, 8 June 1987, p. A1.

**26 June 1987** Iraqi aircraft drop ‘chemical bombs’ in Iranian-occupied north-eastern Iraq, so IRNA claims. The agency says the attacks result in ‘minimum casualties’ because Iranian chemical warfare squads move in quickly to decontaminate affected sectors.[1] No details of location are given.

A few days later, Iran informs the UN Secretary-General: ‘Chemical rockets fired from helicopters were used to deliver suffocating and nerve gases, which resulted in injury to mere than 60 people’.[2]

[1] Ed Blanche (from Nicosia), ‘Iraq Says Three Iranian Assaults Repulsed’, Associated Press, 27 June 1987.

[2] *Letter dated 29 June 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18952–A/42/370, 29 June 1987.

**28 June 1987** Iraq conducts chemical weapons air-raids on the northern border town of Sardasht. Iranian sources initially claim that two raids take place.[1] Further raids take place the following day.[2] Iran initially claims 10 dead and 650 injured.[3] Within 24 hours, this becomes 12 dead and 650 seriously injured out of a total of 2000 claimed casualties.[4] Iran calls for the ‘immediate dispatch’ of a UN investigation.[5]

Foreign journalists visit and report.[6] Sardasht casualties are sent for treatment to Brussels, Madrid, Rome and Vienna.[7] Photographs of casualties are circulated as a UN document at Iranian request.[8] A week later, the death toll has climbed to 35, according to an official from Azarbaijan province.[9] By the end of

July, Iran claims 60 of the 2000 casualties from these attacks have died.[10] Within a year, Iran claims 8129 casualties have been caused by these attacks.[11]

In a description of these attacks to the CD, the Foreign Minister of Iran says ‘it was not the first time that civilian areas and residential quarters were targets of chemical attack. But this was the first time that a city in its totality was poisoned by the Iraqi forces. The use of chemical arms was so vast that even several days later ... the afflicted areas were still highly contaminated.’[12]

[1] IRNA (in English), 1604 GMT 28 June 1987, as reported in ‘Iranian Military Communiqués and Reports’, BBC-SWB, 2 July 1987, ME/8609/A/1.

[2] *Letter dated 29 June 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18955–A/42/373, 30 June 1987.

[3] *Letter dated 29 June 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18953–A/42/371, 29 June 1987; [no author listed] (from Nicosia), ‘Iran Claims 10 Civilians Killed, 650 Injured In Gas Attacks’, Associated Press, 28 June 1987.

[4] *Letter dated 30 June 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18956–A/42/375, 30 June 1987; Gordon Barthos, ‘Iraqis used chemical weapons on civilians, Iran says’, *Toronto Star*, 3 July 1987, p A10.

[5] *Letter dated 29 June 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18953–A/42/371, 29 June 1987.

[6] Andrew Alexander (from Tabriz), ‘Iraq continues chemical war against Iran; UN looks other way’, *Atlanta Constitution*, 9 July 1987, p 22.

[7] [no author listed], Associated Press, as in: ‘Chemical claim’, *Guardian* (London), 15 July 1987, p 6; *Letter dated 16 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18984–A/42/405, 16 July 1987; *Letter dated 17 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18986–A/42/408, 17 July 1987.

[8] *Letter dated 29 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/19006–A/42/426, 29 July 1987.

[9] [No author listed] (from Tehran), ‘Iran Says, 35 People Killed by Iraqi Chemical Bomb’, Xinhua General Overseas News Service, 5 July 1987, ref 0705004; *Letter dated 6 July 1987 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/18966–A/42/382, 6 July 1987.

[10] *Letter dated 29 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General*, UN document S/19006–A/42/426, 29 July 1987.

[11] *Letter Dated 11 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament*, Conference on Disarmament Document CD/827, 12 April 1988.

[12] Statement of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to the Conference on Disarmament in plenary session, 28 July 1987, CD document CD/PV.425, pp 2–6.