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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2143
INFO RUEHAD/USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY 1432
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E.O. 12356: DECL: 3/27/90
TAGS: USEC, PREL, PARH, UNSC, IR, IZ
SUBJECT: UN REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN IRAN/IRAQ
WAR: CONSIDERATION IN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: USUN 617

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BRITISH AND DUTCH DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO QUIETLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF QUICK SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO SECURE A RESOLUTION, IF POSSIBLE, BEFORE UKRAINE ASSUMES THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY APRIL 1. CURRENT PRESIDENT (PERU) INTENDS TO CALL FOR COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS THURSDAY MARCH 29 ON THE SYG'S REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPON USE IN THE GULF WAR AND TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE COUNCIL ACTION ARISING FROM THE REPORT.

3. DUTCH MISOFF SHOWED US WORKING PAPER, THE IDEAS IN WHICH DUTCH ARE USING AS A BASIS OF DISCUSSION FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION (TEXT REPEATED IN PARA 8 BELOW). HE SAID HIS DELEGATION HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT ANY DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINING SIMILAR ELEMENTS, BUT SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE BEFORE THE UKRAINE ASSUMES THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AND TRIES TO SIDETRACK THE ISSUE. DUTCH MISOFF DREW ATTENTION TO OP. PARA 3 OF HIS DRAFT, WHICH IS INTENDED TO BALANCE THE RESOLUTION AND OVERCOME POSSIBLE IRAQI OBJECTIONS.

4. BRITISH ALSO MAY BE THINKING IN TERMS OF A DRAFT
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RESOLUTION AND ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH DUTCH. BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO SEE A PARAGRAPH REAFFIRMING PRINCIPLES OF 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL, BUT ARE WAITING DECISION BY EC-10 FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH WILL BE HEAVILY DETERMINED BY FRENCH WITH WHOM 1925 CONVENTION IS DEPOSITED.

5. IRAQI AMBASSADOR COMMUNICATED TO AMB. KIRKPATRICK HIS GOVERNMENTS DESIRE FOR "RESTRAINT" IN THE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE AND FOR ACTION THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE TOTAL CONTEXT AS WELL AS BASTIAL IRANIAN BEHAVIOR.

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FRENCH PERM. REP. HAS PRIVATELY MADE THE SAME POINTS. U.K. ALSO EMPHASIZE INTEREST IN "BALANCE."

6. IRAQ, MEANWHILE, HAS MADE PUBLIC ITS OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. IN A PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED AT THE UN MARCH 27, IRAQ DENIED USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND BLAMED IRAN FOR CONTINUING THE WAR. IT CRITICIZED THE UN SECRETARIAT FOR CONCENTRATING "ON THE SECONDARY ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT" (I.E. CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE), WHILE IGNORING THE NECESSITY TO END THE WAR ON THE BASIS OF RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. IRAQ CHARGED THE SECRETARIAT WITH ACCEDING TO TWO IRANIAN REQUESTS FOR FACT-FINDING MISSIONS, WHILE NOT REACTING TO AN IRAQI REQUEST FOR A MISSION TO LOOK INTO THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR. THE IRAQIS HAVE SENT A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, WHICH WILL BE TRANSLATED AND CIRCULATED AS A UN DOCUMENT MARCH 28.

7. IQBAL RIZA, A SENIOR UN POLITICAL OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED THE INVESTIGATION TEAM TO IRAQ MARCH 13-19, SHARED WITH A US MISOFF SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS RELATING TO THE VISIT:

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SUBJECT: UN REPORT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN IRAN/IRAQ

-- THE TEAM VISITED TWO SITES IN IRAN WITHIN FIVE KILOMETERS OF THE IRAQI BORDER AND JUST EAST OF THE MAJNOON ISLAND COMBAT ZONE. THEY WITNESSED NO GROUND ACTION, BUT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF ARTILLERY AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE (THE TEAM SAW NO AIRCRAFT).

-- IRANIAN AUTHORITIES SHOWED THE UN TEAM GAS MASKS AND ASSOCIATED GEAR, WHICH THEY SAID HAD BEEN CAPTURED FROM THE IRAQIS. THE EQUIPMENT WAS MANUFACTURED IN EASTERN EUROPE AND BORE ARABIC SCRIPT. THIS WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TEAM'S REPORT.

-- IRANIAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN EQUIPPED WITH GAS MASKS AND ATROPINE, WITH WHICH THE SOLDIERS CAN INJECT THEMSELVES UPON EXPOSURE TO A GAS ATTACK. TEAM THOUGHT THAT MANY OF THE PATIENTS THEY VISITED IN IRANIAN CLINICS WOULD HAVE DIED HAD THEY NOT ADMINISTERED ATROPINE TO THEMSELVES IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPOSURE.

-- TEAM WAS NOT MANDATED TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES WITH THE IRANIANS, BUT SUBJECT COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. RIZA SAID IRANIANS GAVE NO SIGN OF WAR-WEARINESS NOR OF WILLINGNESS TO END THE WAR ON LESS THAN OFT-REPEATED, HARSH TERMS. IRANIANS THINK THEY ARE WINNING AND IRAQI USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS SIGN OF THEIR ENEMY'S DESPERATION. YOUNG PASDARAN SOLDIERS BILLETED ON ONE OF THE SITES VISITED BY THE TEAM EXHIBITED ENTHUSIASM
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AND HIGH MORALE.

-- RIZA THINKS IRANIANS MAY WELL DECIDE TO MANUFACTURE AND USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS THEMSELVES IF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOES NOT CONDEMN IRAQ. HE SAID IRANIAN ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RAFSANJANI HAS MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT.

B. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DUTCH WORKING PAPER:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,

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HAVING CONSIDERED AGAIN THE QUESTION ENTITLED "THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ"

GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ WHICH HAVE BEEN MARKED BY HEAVY FIGHTING AT THE FRONT AND RENEWED ATTACKS WITH ROCKETS, SHELLS AND BOMBS AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS;

TAKING NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIALISTS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN CONCERNING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (DOC. S/16433);

TAKING NOTE WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT THE UNANIMOUS CONCLUSIONS OF THE SPECIALIST SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAVE BEEN USED;

RECALLING THAT THE USE IN WAR OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAS

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BEEN JUSTLY CONDEMNED BY THE GENERAL OPINION OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD AND IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROTOCOL FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE IN WAR OF ASPHYXIATING, POISONOUS OR OTHER GASES, AND OF BACTERIAL METHODS OF WARFARE, SIGNED AT GENEVA ON 17 JUNE 1925;

GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT ALL REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE THE HUMAN SUFFERING OF WARFARE, WHETHER THEY RELATED TO THE USE OF SPECIFIC WEAPONS, THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR, THE USE OF CHILDREN IN THE ARMED FORCES, THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS;

STRONGLY AFFIRMING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT THESE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS CAN ONLY BE FULLY SATISFIED BY PUTTING AN END TO THE TRAGIC CONFLICT THAT CONTINUES TO DEplete THE PRECIOUS HUMAN RESOURCES OF IRAN AND IRAQ.

1. AFFIRMS STRONGLY AND CATEGORICALLY THAT THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS A CONDEMNABLE ACT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THIS MAY OCCUR, COMMENDS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HIS TIMELY INVESTIGATION AND REQUESTS HIM TO KEEP THE MATTER UNDER
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CLOSE REVIEW;

2. CONDEMNS ALL VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND URGES BOTH PARTIES TO OBSERVE CAREFULLY THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT OR ALLEVIATE THE HUMAN SUFFERING OF WARFARE;

3. RENEWS ITS APPEAL TO BOTH PARTIES TO COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN ADHERING TO A CEASE FIRE AND TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE

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FOR BOTH SIDES:

4. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CONTINUE HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND HOHOURABLE SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE FOR BOTH SIDES;

5. DECIDES TO KEEP THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAW AND IRAQ UNDER CLOSE REVIEW AND CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN AND IRAQ TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE COUNCIL IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT CONDITIONS LEADING TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.
END TEXT

9. KUWAIT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
KIRKPATRICK

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