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ПИСЬМО ПОСТОЯННОГО ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯ ИРАКА ПРИ
ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ОТ 25 СЕНТЯБРЯ
1985 ГОДА НА ИМЯ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО СЕКРЕТАРЯ

Имею честь передать Вам текст статьи, опубликованной 20 сентября 1985 года в лондонской газете "Таймс". В этой статье приводятся высказывания офицера иранской военной разведки, подтверждающие, что иранский режим использует детей в боевых действиях против Ирака и что уже тысячи детей погибли на полях сражений.

Буду признателен Вам за распространение текста настоящего письма и приложения к нему в качестве документа Совета Безопасности.

Исмаат КИТТАНИ
Постоянный представитель

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The Killings that shatter faith

One Iranian officer disillusioned by what he saw during five years of the war is Lieutenant Mahmoud-Reza Aminzadeh, until recently a departmental intelligence chief in the army's air arm.

He had served in various capacities, starting as paratroop commander, and despite his junior rank, at one stage (following the turmoil of the revolution of February, 1979) was a member of the army's Islamic Revolutionary Council. Now he has applied to join the centrist opposition movement under the former prime minister, Mr Shahpour Bakhtiar, living in exile in Paris.

He said that in the course of one of the battles in which he took part, the retaking of the southern town of Bostan in 1982, up to 5,000 teenage Iranian volunteers died clearing minefields ahead of the revolutionary guards and the army.

"At first, guards' commanders and the clergy decided to use hundreds of donkeys and cattle, but these stampeded towards us at the sound of the first explosions. Then the clergy got working on the teenagers, in the Baserj volunteer corps, and excited them so much that, when the attack started, they all were ready to commit suicide.

"The attack on Bostan shook me most. It made me feel less than an animal. We were about 13 miles from the town and we did not take a single prisoner until we captured it. All the Iraqis were beheaded by the guards or were buried alive by bulldozers in their trenches.

"The guards carry Japanese, battery-driven saws, and these can cut a man's throat in a second. I have seen men staggering for ten metres before they fell dead".

Not only has the Ayatollah Khomeini lost popularity, he said, but the regime will not be able to replace the regular army with the revolutionary guards because of the guards' inability to master modern techniques and win battles.

"We tried very hard to teach some of them to become helicopter pilots and learn other specialities. It was impossible. They are uneducated and most are above 40. Instead, the army has been expanded to about 700,000 men. What the government does, for example, is arrange for the showing of good films in provincial centres and, as young men emerge from the

cinemas the military police pounce on them and send them to the army".

There are also deficiencies in manufacturing. "The arms factories work in three shifts and make many kinds of weapons. I have seen anti-tank rockets made by them, but they have difficulty making platforms and remote control mechanisms for larger missiles. The platforms perish each time."

Lieutenant Aminzadeh said that the man in effective charge of the war was Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, the parliamentary Speaker, and that 90 per cent of army and air force officers were against the regime.

"Clergymen preach to officers up to four hours a day in what they call "politico-ideological classes", but the preaching has caused the opposite effect. Everyone is fed up with the leadership of the country".