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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Items 40 and 63 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 28 March 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a statement of the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel, dated 25 March 1988, regarding the recent alarming use of chemical weapons in the Middle East (see annex).

I should be grateful if you have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items 40 and 63 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
 Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 25 March 1988 by the spokesman of Ministry
for Foreign Affairs of Israel

We find **Iraq's** action this week most alarming. They must serve as a grave reminder **of** the **readiness** of certain countries in the Middle East to make use of chemical weapons, mercilessly slaughtering **defenseless** men, women and **children**.

These acts constitute a violation **of** the 1925 Geneva Protocol **banning** chemical **warfare**. The Government of Israel has repeatedly voiced its concern (most recently at the forty-second General **Assembly of** the **United Nations**) regarding the **growing** proliferation of chemical devices in **the region**, particularly in Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Iraq has blatantly violated its commitments and **obligations** under the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Israel views this as a manifestation of the **scorn** with which some **regimes** in the **region** regard international **agreements**.

We view with **acute** dismay the silence of **the** international community in the face **of** atrocities committed **against** the ethnic minority of the Iraqi Kurds. It is instructive to **note** that to date this issue was not even mentioned at the Islamic Conference Organization meeting currently convened in Amman.
