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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 30 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of  
Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 30 March 1988 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan regarding the recent use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq conflict (see annex).

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

(Signed)    Hideo KAGAMI  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of  
Japan to the United Nations

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\*    A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 30 March 1988 by the spokesman of the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

1. There is strong reason to suspect that chemical weapons were used recently by Iraq in the Iran-Iraq conflict. The Government of Japan holds that such use of chemical weapons is in violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and extremely deplorable. The United Nations investigation teams confirmed in March 1984, **March** 1986 and May 1987 that chemical weapons had been used in the Iran-Iraq conflict. In view of these reports the Government of Japan has strongly urged that such weapons should never be used.

2. The Government of Japan strongly hopes that Iran and Iraq will take constructive attitudes in their consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his efforts to secure the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), with a view to achieving an early and comprehensive settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict so as to bring this tragic situation to an end as soon as possible.

3. As the Islamic Republic of Iran has recently made a request to all State Members of the United Nations for co-operation in the medical treatment and relief of the victims of chemical weapons, the Government of Japan is now studying, from a humanitarian point of view, the kind of co-operation it can offer.

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