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ПИСЬМО ИСПОЛНЯЮЩЕГО ОБЯЗАННОСТИ ПОСТОЯННОГО ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯ
ИСЛАМСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ИРАН ПРИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ
ОТ 13 АПРЕЛЯ 1988 ГОДА НА ИМЯ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО СЕКРЕТАРЯ

Имею честь обратить Ваше внимание на прилагаемую статью, озаглавленную "Разоблачение: химическая война Ирака; захваченные документы свидетельствуют о зловещем плане", которая была опубликована в английской газете "Обсервер" за 27 марта 1988 года. В статье говорится о том, что "Обсервер" получила копии иракских военных документов, в которых отдается конкретный приказ о развертывании химического оружия, и что она публикует фотографии некоторых страниц обоих захваченных документов.

Буду весьма признателен за распространение этого письма и приложения к нему в качестве документа Совета Безопасности.

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Exposed: Iraq's gas war

Seized documents reveal terror plan

DESPITE strenuous denials by the Iraqis that they have used chemical weapons, *The Observer* has gained copies of Iraqi Army documents specifically ordering their deployment. The documents were seized by the Kurdish Democratic Party, one of the main guerrilla organisations in northern Iraq, when they successfully attacked the important Iraqi military base of Deir al-Qasr at the end of January.

They confirm Kurdish and Iranian charges that Iraq has been pursuing a persistent policy of chemical warfare, climaxing in a cyanide gas attack this month on the city of Halabja in which around 4,000 civilians were killed. The use of chemical weapons is, according to the Kurds, still continuing today.

The official documents are now in London. There are two of them. One is a telegram, marked 'urgent', and the second a letter from the Iraqi artillery command. It is headed, ironically, 'In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful'.

The letter was sent by General De'ah Abdul Wahab Ezzat at the headquarters of Arbil district in Kurdistan to all units of the 24th Battalion. The subject, stated at the top of the letter, is 'Control over distribution of biological and chemical weapons'.

Referring to a series of letters, all 'personal and highly confidential', of the Interior Ministry, Defence Ministry, the special bureau of the Army Chief of Staff and National Defence Forces, the commander requires a half-yearly stock-taking of all chemical and

EXCLUSIVE by HELGA GRAHAM

biological weapons 'at the disposal of the units'.

The telegram is from Major Sa'di Mahmoud Hussein, Commander of the Zakho district of Kurdistan to 'Commander A'. The purpose is to inform him that the KDP have acquired 4,000 gas masks. 'Saboteurs (ie guerrillas) will wear them when we use chemical weapons to attack their concentrations'.

In the meantime, the chemical attacks against civilians are apparently continuing. The Kurds say that the Iraqi Army has, within the last few days, again resorted to chemical attacks in a drive to clear the Kurdish insurgents from the Karadagh mountains.

Iraqi chemical attacks on the Kurds, denied but surely now undeniable, constitute a cold-blooded, desperate last-ditch strategy to mask the Iraqi Government's military weakness in the northern Kurdish area of the country. In its war with Iran, Kurdistan is widely seen as Iraq's Achilles heel.

On the flat land of the southern and middle sectors of the Gulf war, meticulously mined by the French and Iraq's other foreign allies, a combination of geography and modern technology have so far helped the Iraqi Army in their war with the Iranians. But the northern Kurdish mountains are not so easily tamed by technology.

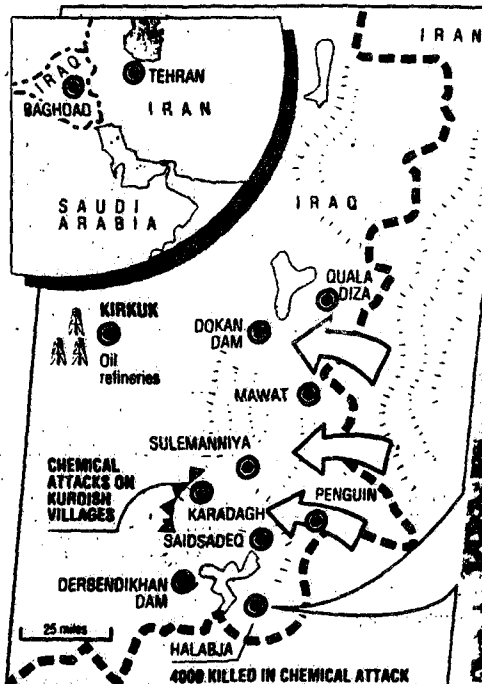
It has taken the Iraqis an astonishingly long time to exploit fully Iraq's weakness here — as they are now trying to do. Mesmerised by the Shia holy cities of Kerbala and Najaf in the south

of Iraq and believing that Iraqi Shia in those areas would rise up against the Iraqi Government, the Iranians half-ignored the Kurds who had long been fighting for autonomy and democracy against what they consider to be the ruthless and despotic Ba'ath regime in Baghdad.

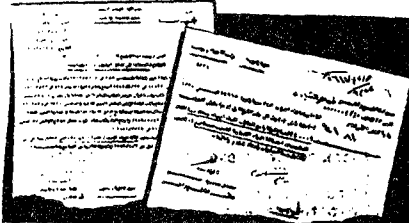
But eventually, Iran realised that the Kurds were gaining more land by themselves than they were, with all their razzmatazz, on the war front. So over the past year or two, they have begun to arm and aid the Kurds more effectively.

Now, with spring at hand, the battle for Kurdistan is being waged more savagely than at any time since the Gulf war began.

For the Iraqi Army, the strategy must be to establish two lines of defence — at the chain of mountains at Chermasand and from Derbendikhan to Suleimaniya. The Kurds and Iraqis will try to break through here, as well as capture the dams of Dokan and Derbendikhan.



The killing zone: Iraqi gas attacks in Kurdistan claimed this victim in Halabja.



Rules of terror: Part of the seized documents.