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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 2667th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 March 1986, in connection with the consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iran and Iraq", the President of the Security Council made the following statement:

"On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I am authorized to make the following declaration:

'The members of the Security Council, seized with the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq, have considered the report of the mission of specialists dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq (S/17911 and Add.1).

'Profoundly concerned by the unanimous conclusion of the specialists that chemical weapons on many occasions have been used by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces, most recently in the course of the present Iranian offensive into Iraqi territory, the members of the Council strongly condemn this continued use of chemical weapons in clear violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which prohibits the use in war of chemical weapons.

'They recall the statements by the President of the Security Council of 30 March 1984 (S/16454) and 25 April 1985 (S/17130), and demand again that the provisions of the Geneva Protocol be strictly observed.

'At the same time the members of the Council condemn the prolongation of the conflict which continues to take a heavy toll of human lives and to cause considerable material damage as well as to endanger peace and security in the region.

'They express concern over the risk of an extension of the conflict to other States in the region and call upon the two sides to respect the territorial integrity of all States, including those that are not parties to the hostilities.

'The members of the Council reaffirm resolution 582 (1986) of the Security Council and note that the Government of Iraq has expressed its willingness to heed the call for the immediate cessation of hostilities. They stress the urgent need for full compliance by both parties with this resolution, which would open the way for a prompt, comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of the conflict.

'The members of the Council note that both parties have declared themselves ready to co-operate with the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts to restore peace to the peoples of Iran and Iraq, and express their support for these efforts.'
