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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM  
SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: ITEM 12: IRANIAN  
RESOLUTION ON USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY IRAQ

REF: GENEVA 2142

(CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DEPT ENDORSES GENERAL STRATEGY DESCRIBED REFTL,  
PARA 3. USDEL SHOULD WORK TO DEVELOP GENERAL WESTERN  
POSITION IN SUPPORT OF A MOTION TO TAKE "NO DECISION"  
ON IRANIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
BY IRAQ. IF SUCH A MOTION GETS REASONABLE AND BROAD  
SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP, USDEL SHOULD VOTE IN FAVOR.  
FAILING WESTERN SUPPORT FOR "NO DECISION," USDEL  
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SHOULD ABSTAIN.

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IS:SPC/CDR Date: 6/14/84

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3. IN EITHER CASE, USDEL SHOULD MAKE A STRONG EXPLANATION OF VOJE DRAWING UPON DEPT PRESS STATEMENT OF MARCH 5 ON IRAQI USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS REPEATED PARA 4 BELOW. USDEL SHOULD UNDERSCORE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS AN INAPPROPRIATE FORUM FOR MATTERS DEALING WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

-- USG EVENHANDEDLY CONDEMNNS THE PROHIBITED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS WHENEVER IT OCCURS.

-- USG DEPLORES THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AND BLOODSHED IN BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ, OF WHICH THE CARNAGE CAUSED BY CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS ONLY A PART.

4. TEXT OF DEPT'S PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

THE UNITED STATES HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT IRAQ HAS USED LETHAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY CONDEMNNS THE PROHIBITED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS WHEREVER IT OCCURS. THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR USE BY ANY COUNTRY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WORKING FOR MANY YEARS WITH OTHER NATIONS TO ESTABLISH A TREATY BANNING PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF LETHAL AND INCAPACITATING CHEMICAL WEAPONS, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THEIR USE. THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN RECENT CONFLICTS INCLUDING  
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THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR ONLY ADDS TO THE URGENCY OF THIS UNDERTAKING.

WHILE CONDEMNING IRAQ'S RESORT TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE UNITED STATES ALSO CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO ACCEPT THE GOOD OFFICES OFFERED BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PUT AN END TO THE BLOODSHED. THE UNITED STATES FINDS THE PRESENT IRANIAN REGIME'S INTRANSIGENT REFUSAL TO DEVIATE FROM ITS AVOWED OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE

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ACCEPTED NORMS OF BEHAVIOR AMONG NATIONS AND THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS BASIS WHICH IT CLAIMS.

THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES THE TRAGIC AND NEEDLESS LOSS OF BOTH IRANIAN AND IRAQI LIVES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS. WE URGE BOTH STATES TO RESPECT THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS DESIGNED TO MITIGATE THE HUMAN SUFFERING OF WARFARE, PARTICULARLY THOSE BANNING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND REQUIRING THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS.  
END QUOTE. SHULTZ

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