

“General Military Intelligence Directorate Memos on Iran's Chemical Weapons Capability and Alleged Use”



Document Date: October 1987-September 1988

CRRC Record Number: SH-GMID-D-000-898

**Key: Translator comments, clarifications, and additions are italicized in brackets.
Classification markings and parentheses are from the original Arabic document.**

[Please note that the page sequence of this document is not complete; some pages are missing and the actual pages are not in the right order]

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

General Military Intelligence Directorate
Directorate 5/Section 19
(Iran)

To: The Deputy
RE: Chemical Weapons

Below are the times and locations where the enemy used chemical weapons against our troops:

- 1- The enemy used chemical shells/bombs that had the (CS) agent in 1983 in the Mehran sector (Our letter No. 26975 of December 8, 1986 sent to the Presidency).
- 2- On April 20, 1986, the same agent was used in the direction of the 3rd Regiment 115th Brigade in the 7th Corps sector (By way of a container [*coming*] from the far bank of Shatt-al-‘Arab).
- 3- At 12:00 hours on December 26, 1986, the same agent was used in a container [*coming*] from the far bank of Shatt-al-‘Arab in the direction of the 1st Regiment and 3rd Regiment 115th Brigade of the 6th Corps.
- 4- At 0720 hours on December 28, 1986, the same method and the same agent were used in the direction of the 1st Regiment 39th Brigade in the 7th Corps sector (The advanced chemical corps directorate letter No. 15 of January 18, 1987).
- 5- At 19:00-20:00 hours on April 9, 1987, the enemy carried out a chemical attack on the 5th Mechanized Division and the 19th Division. The agent used was one of the choking gases—most likely Phosgene.
- 6- At 23:30 hours on April 12, 1987, the enemy launched 6 chemical shells on the 28th Infantry Division Headquarters. It is believed that the shells contained Mustard agent.
- 7- At 01:00 hours on April 13, 1987, the enemy launched 3 (CS) shells near Al Ta'limi Bridge in Basra.

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- 8- At 02:30 hours on June 29, 1987, the enemy used Mustard agent in artillery fire on the 439th Infantry Brigade Headquarters in the 1st Corps sector; they expended 28 130mm shells.

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- 9- At 14:05 hours on July 8, 1987, the enemy used the same agent again on the Headquarters of the above Brigade. They expended 10 130mm shells (The chemical corps letter No. 787 of July 9, 1987).
- 10- Between 19:15-22:30 hours on November 13, 1987, the enemy used Mustard agent in artillery fire on the 82nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters in the 1st Corps sector. They expended 30 shells. (The chemical corps letter No. 147 of November 19, 1987).

Please review.

[Signature]
Staff Colonel
Director of Section 19
March 26, 1988

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful
Presidency of the Republic
Secretary
General Military Intelligence Directorate

No: Directorate 5/Section 19
Date: [Blank]

Top Secret and Personal

To: The Armed Forces General Command
RE: Chemical Capabilities of the Enemy

- 1- From 1983 until now, the Iranian enemy has used the following chemical agents in a limited range:
 - A- (CS) agent (RPG2 launcher missiles, containers benefiting from the wind direction, mortar rounds, and artillery shells).
 - B- Phosgene agent (mortar rounds).
 - C- Mustard agent (81mm mortar bombs/130mm artillery shells).
 - D- White Phosphorus agent (in the MR – 43 aircraft missiles).
- 2- We received information stating that Iran acquired aid and raw chemical materials related to the production of the Mustard Gas, Tabun, and Sarin from West Germany, North Korea, Israel, and Syria.
- 3- The produced quantities of the chemical agents mentioned above are still limited, but the enemy is likely to store appropriate quantities into artillery and mortars to be used in future battles against our troops and in aircraft strikes against our Headquarters.
- 4- We suggest tightening the protective measures against chemicals for our troops and

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Headquarters in order to avoid unexpected activities.

[There is a hand-written note in the right margin of this page that reads as follows:]

You have not mentioned finding large amounts of chemical ammunitions. I suggest preparing a comprehensive report.

[Signature]

June 30, 1988

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Top Secret and Personal

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[This page is a continuation of page 3 of the PDF but it was not in the right order in the document]

In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Top Secret and Personal

Please review, with regards.

Staff Major General
General Military Intelligence Director

cc:

Presidency of the Republic – Secretary
Ministry of Defense Council
Army Staff Head
Special Security Apparatus
Operation Department
Air Force and Air Defense Command
Republican Guard Force Command
1st Corps Command
Special 1st Corps Command
2nd Corps Command
3rd Corps Command
4th Corps Command
5th Corps Command
6th Corps Command
7th Corps Command
Navy Force and Coastal Defense Command

Please review, with regards

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Top Secret and Personal

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic
Secretary
General Military Intelligence Directorate

No: Directorate 5/Section 13/21381

Date: October 4, 1987

Top Secret and Personal

To: The Armed Forces General Command

RE: Protection against Chemical Agents

- 1- Since the enemy's possession of chemical weapons, such as Phosgene, Mustard, and CS has been confirmed, and since these weapons have not been used for several months except to a very limited or individual extent, we were able to store sufficient quantities to carry out many special and effective attacks.
- 2- It is expected that the use of these quantities will be limited to the fortified positions towards the main attack and Headquarters, and for purposes of deterrence.
- 3- We suggest instructing all commands to take precautionary measures against chemical agents and start practicing their implementation from now on.

Please review and advice,

With regards.

[Signature]

Staff Major General

General Military Intelligence Director

cc:

General Commander Deputy/the Minister of Defense Secretary of President Leader (May God Protect Him) Chief of Staff of the Army
Special Security Apparatus Director

(1 - 1)

Top Secret and Personal

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful
Presidency of the Republic

Secretary
General Military Intelligence Directorate

No/Directorate 5/Section 19/6244

Date: March 26, 1988

Top Secret, Urgent and Personal

To: The Presidency of the Republic — Secretary

RE: Counter Chemical Attacks

Below are the locations and timings of the enemy's use of chemical agents during the war:

- 1- (CS) agent was used during the Zarbatiyah battles in 1983.
- 2- (CS) agent was used on April 20, 1986 in a container launched from the far bank of the Shatt-al-‘Arab towards the locations of the 3rd Regiment 115th Brigade in the 7th Corps sector.
- 3- The same method was used on the 26th & 28th of December, 1986 towards the locations of the 115th & 39th Brigades in Shatt-al-‘Arab sector.
- 4- Phosgene agent was used on April 9, 1987 against the locations of the 5th Mechanized Division and the 19th Infantry Division in the 3rd Corps sector.
- 5- Mustard agent was used on April 12, 1987 against the Headquarters of the 28th Infantry Division in the 3rd Corps sector.
- 6- (CS) agent was used on April 13, 1987 on the Ta'limi Bridge area in Basra.
- 7- Mustard agent was used on June 29, 1987 against the Headquarters of the 439th Infantry Brigade in the 1st Corps sector (Mawit). The same agent was used again on the same brigade on July 8, 1987.
- 8- Mustard agent was used on November 13, 1987 against the 82nd Infantry Brigade in the 1st Corps sector (Mawit).

Please review,

With regards.

[Signature]
Staff Major General

General Military Intelligence Director

(1 - 1)

Top Secret and Personal

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic
Secretary

General Military Intelligence Directorate
Office of the 5th Adjutant
(Iran)

To: The Deputy

RE: Chemical Capabilities of the Enemy

- 1- With reference to your comment on the draft letter enclosed regarding the chemical capabilities of the enemy, you have not mentioned the finding of large amounts of chemical ammunitions. I suggest modifying the report completely.
- 2- The top secret and personal letter of the Chemical Corps Directorate no. SH1/ Intelligence / 147/388 dated on June 18, 1988 stated the following: 140 81mm mortar rounds were found, including chemical rounds, in the 3rd Corps sector in Tawakalna 'Ala Allah operation. A sample of this ammunition was tested at the Al-Muthanna General Establishment and in the laboratories of our directorate. The test indicated that the aforementioned ammunition contains Sulfuric Mustard agent with 190 ml capacity and a very high purity grade. It was mixed with 25% of Dichloromethane solvent in order to increase the substance volatility, increase the possibility of penetrating the protection mask filter, and reduce the viscosity.
- 3- We coordinated with the Chemical Corps Directorate on July 2, 1988 to determine whether the entire number mentioned above are chemical shells of the same type or just a part of it. The directorate (Brigadier General Muhammad) has informed us that there is a detailed report on this matter, which we will receive in a day or two. I called him at 2130 hours on July 3, 1988 and he said that the ammunition was sent to the Al-Muthanna establishment in order to prepare a full and detailed report on this ammunition.
- 4- We have already notified the General Command, the General Commander Deputy, the Secretary of Mr. President Leader (may God protect him), Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Special Security Apparatus Director.

(1 – 2)

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Reference is made to our top secret and personal letter no. Directorate 5/Section 13/21386 of October 4, 1987, stating the following:

- A- It has been proven that the enemy has chemical weapons of Phosgene, Mustard, and CS agents. But since several months have gone by and these agents have not been used except for a very limited range or individually, we were able to store quantities enough to carry out many special effective strikes.

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- B- It is expected that the use of these agents will be limited to the fortified positions in the direction of the main strike and Headquarters, and for deterrence purposes.
- C- We suggest instructing all commands to take chemical protection measures, and to practice those measures early and from now on.

I suggest being patient in preparing the report until we finish the examination of seized weapons and receive detailed information on it, taking into consideration that this is one of the agents mentioned in our letter above.

Please review and advise.

[Signature]
Staff Colonel
Director of Section 19
July 4, 1988

For follow-up
[Signature]
July 5, 1988

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Secret and Personal

Ministry of Defense
Training Division
Chemical Corps Directorate

No.: Section 1/ Intelligence/147/445

Date: July 6, 1988

To: The Training Division
RE: Counter Chemical Ammunition

Reference is made to your secret and personal letter ND/469 of June 20, 1988. Following careful examination and laboratory testing, please find below the number of chemical and non-chemical rounds of the ammunition cache that were found in the 3rd Corps sector:

- 1- 141 - One hundred forty-one 81mm mortar rounds (chemical)
- 2- 4 - Four 81mm mortar rounds (high explosive)
- 3- 9 - Nine 120mm mortar rounds (high explosive)
- 4- 4 - Four 60mm mortar rounds (high explosive)

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5- 3- Three 40mm anti-tank (high explosive)

Please review.

[Signature]
Staff Major General
Hani Mahmoud Shihab
Chemical Corps Director

cc:
General Military Intelligence Directorate

[There are miscellaneous hand-written notes on this page as follows]

To the Section Director,
Please review.
[Signature]
July 8

T-to the Deputy,
Please review.
[Signature]
July 8

(1 — 1)
Secret and Personal

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3929/M5
June 21

Page 12 PDF

In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful
Republic of Iraq

Secret and Personal

Ministry of Defense
Army Staff Head
Training Department

No.: Training / 469
Date: June 20, 1988

To: The Army Staff Head
RE: Counter Chemical Ammunition

One hundred and forty-two 81mm mortar rounds were found, including chemical ones in the 3rd Corps sector in Tawakalna 'Ala Allah operation. A sample of the aforesaid ammunition was tested at Al-Muthanna public establishment and in the laboratories of the Chemical Corps Directorate leading to the following conclusion:

- 1- The aforesaid ammunition contains the Sulfuric Mustard agent with 190 ml capacity and a very high purity grade, mixed with 25% of Dichloromethane solvent in order to increase the substance is volatility, as well as to increase the possibility of penetration through the protection mask filter and reduce the viscosity.
- 2- Based on what has been mentioned above, we conclude that the enemy has shifted to the phase of using chemical ammunition on a large scale -ion the field, including mortar rounds, aiming at our front line troops.
- 3- We believe that the Mustard agent is being locally manufactured and filled by the enemy (meaning it is not imported), leading us to conclude the possibility of using the aforesaid agent in ammunition of different calibers and ranges.
- 4- The case mentioned above is solid proof of the possession and use of poisonous chemical agents by the enemy against our troops, which requires emphasizing to our troops that they must comply with the measures issued as per the top secret and immediate letter of the Chemical Corps Directorate no. 14194 of October 19, 1987, and to carry protective equipment at all times.
- 5- The presence of chemical ammunition is considered an established material proof that convicts the enemy of possessing and using chemical weapons. Such materials can be submitted to the United Nations for documentation.

Please review and advise as you see fit.

[Signature]
Staff General
Ni'mah Faris Hussein
Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Training

cc:

General Military Intelligence Directorate
Chemical Corps Directorate – your top secret and personal letter no. 388 of June 18, 1988

Mr. Deputy,
Please review.

[Signature]
June 21

[There are miscellaneous hand-written notes on this pages that read as follows]

Chemical
147/June 21

1884/Section 19
June 21

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3929/Directorate 5

June 21

555/Department 1

June 21

Secret and Personal

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Ministry of Defense

Training Department
Chemical Corps Directorate

Top Secret and Personal

No. 388/Section 1/Intelligence/147

Date: June 18, 1988

To: Training Department

RE: Counter Chemical Ammunition

One hundred and forty-two 81mm mortar shells were found, including chemical rounds in the 3rd Corps sector in (Tawakalna Ala Allah) battle. A sample of the aforesaid ammunition was tested at Al Muthanna Public Establishment and at our directorate laboratories; below is the conclusion:

- 1- The ammunition mentioned above contains the sulfuric mustard agent with 190 ml capacity and a very high purity grade, mixed with 25% of Dichloromethane solvent in order to increase the substance volatility, as well as to increase the possibility of penetration through the protection mask filter and reduce the viscosity.
- 2- Based on what has been mentioned above, we conclude that the enemy has shifted to the phase of using chemical ammunition on the field in a large scale within the range of mortars, aiming at our front line troops.
- 3- We believe that mustard agent is being locally manufactured and filled by the enemy (meaning it is not imported), leading us to conclude the possibility of using the aforesaid agent in ammunitions with different calibers and ranges.
- 4- The case mentioned above is solid proof of the possession and use of poisonous chemical agent by the enemy against our troops, which requires emphasizing to our troops that they must comply with the procedures issued in our top secret and immediate letter 14494 of October 19, 1987 and carry protective gear at all times.
- 5- The presence of chemical ammunition is considered an established material proof that convicts the enemy of possessing and using chemical weapons. Such materials can be

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submitted to the United Nations for documentation.

Please review and advise as you see fit.

[Signature] Staff Major General Hani Mahmoud Shihab Chemical Corps Director: General
Military Intelligence Directorate

Mr. Deputy,

Please review. [Signature]

June 21

Please submit a detailed report on the enemy's previous use along with your opinion.

[Signature]

June 21

To the Section Director,

Please review taking into consideration that the enemy has previously used the artillery
ammunition to fire at our troops.

[Signature]

June 20

Department 1,

For your review and opinion.

[Signature]

June 21

553/Department 1

June 20

146/Chemical

June 20

1869/Section 19

June 20

Directorate 5

June 20

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Secret and Personal

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic

Secretary

SH-GMID-D-000-898
General Military Intelligence Directorate
Office of the 5th Adjutant
(Iran)

To: The Section Manager
RE: Report

Reference is made to the Deputy's comment on the Chemical Corps Directorate's top secret and personal letter 388 of June 18, 1988, related to the information on the 81mm chemical mortar bombs that were found in Al-Shalamjeh region following the operations of (Tawakalna 'Ala Allah), which contained the Mustard agent with 75% purity and 190 ml capacity.

1- Below are the timings and locations where the enemy used chemical agents during the war:

- A- The use of (CS) agent (in shells/bombs) during the Zarbatiyah battles in 1983.
- B- The use of (CS) agent On April 20, 1986 in a container [*coming*] from the far bank of Shatt-al-'Arab towards the locations of the 3rd Regiment 115th Brigade in the 7th Corps sector.
- C- The same method was used on the 26th & 28th of December, 1986 towards the locations of the 115th & 39th Brigade in Shatt-al-'Arab sector.
- D- The use of Phosgene agent on April 9, 1987 against the locations of the 5th Mechanized Division and the 19th Infantry Division in the 3rd Corps sector.
- E- The use of Mustard agent in 6 130mm artillery bombs on April 12, 1987, launched against the Headquarters of the 28th Infantry Division in the 3rd Corps sector.
- F- The use of (CS) agent in artillery on April 13, 1987 on the Ta'limi Bridge area in Basra.
- G- The use of Mustard agent on June 29, 1987 against the Headquarters of the 439th Infantry Brigade in the 1st Corps sector (Mawit); the same agent was used again on the Headquarters of the 18th Infantry Brigade on July 8, 1987.

(1 – 3)

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- H- The use of Mustard agent in artillery on November 13, 1987 on the Headquarters of the 82nd Infantry Brigade in the 1st Corps sector (Mawit) (the number of the 130mm shells launched was 30).
- I- The use of (CS) agent in 120mm mortars on March 23, 1988 on the Headquarters of the 107th Brigade 15th Division in the 7th Corps sector (the number of shells was 3).
- j- The use of (CS) agent in RPG-7 launchers on the locations of the 2nd Regiment 107th Brigade in the 7th Corps sector on March 24, 1988 (one RPG-7 missile).
- K- The use of Mustard agent in artillery on March 30, 1988 on the locations of the 1st Regiment 606th Brigade 34th Division in the 1st Corps sector (the number of shells was 20).
- L- The use of an unspecified chemical agent on April 13, 1988 on the locations of the 981st Light Battery in the 27th Division sector 1st Brigade (in artillery).
- M- The use of (CS) agent on April 21, 1988 in artillery on the Headquarters of the 507th Brigade 30th Division in the 3rd Corps sector.

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- N- The use of White Phosphorus agent by aircraft (MK-43 missiles) on Zakhu town on April 16, 1988.
- 0- The use of Mustard agent by artillery on May 28, 1988 on the 28th Division sector 1st Corps (according to the verbal notification by Staff Colonel Nashwan) (It has not yet been confirmed).

2- **Opinion**

- A- In light of the enemy's limited use of chemical agents, we come to the following conclusion:

First: Produced quantities of the chemical agents mentioned above are still limited,

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which could be the result of the lack of raw materials used in production or the lack of ammunition casings used for filling.

Second: The enemy was incapable of storing large quantities of ammunition near the launching equipment, fearing that the impact of our air power and artillery bombing their artillery and mortar locations could cause the explosion of this ammunition.

- B- The enemy might be currently storing some quantities of chemical agents (Mustard, Phosgene, and CS) to be used broadly and extensively in the upcoming battles. This is confirmed by their constant effort to obtain raw materials from European countries, as well as their efforts to develop insecticide plants and turn them into plants to produce chemical weapons, which requires our troops to be ready for this in the future.

Please review.

[Signature]
Staff Colonel
Department 1 Section 19 Staff Officer
June 22, 1988

[The following are miscellaneous notes]

The information submitted to the Command needs to be discussed.

[Signature]
June 24, 1988

To the Deputy,

- 1-The enemy's capability to produce chemical agents is limited.
- 2- The Training Division has informed the Army Staff Head of the matter in its top secret and

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personal letter 469 of June 2, 1988 (hereby attached), to emphasize to the troops the need to comply with the chemical protection measures.

Please review.

[Signature]
June 22

To the General Director,

Please review; there will be a follow-up on this matter.

[Signature]
June 23

Has the Command been informed lately of the necessity to be aware of the enemy's use of chemical agents in the upcoming battles?

[Signature]
June 23

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic
Secretary

General Military Intelligence Directorate Office of the 5th Adjutant
(Iran)

To: The Deputy

RE: Chemical Weapons

- 1- Reference is made to the comment of your Excellency on the attached report related to the enemy's possession and use of chemical weapons (The information submitted to the Command needs to be reviewed, please).
- 2- Below is the information submitted to the sources through our section in the following official letters (attached):
 - A- Our top secret and personal letter no. Section 13/Department 7/26975 of December 8, 1986, addressed to the Presidency of the Republic — Secretary, where paragraph (D) of article 2 stated the following on page 2-3:

Final Conclusion

- First: The enemy has no efficient locally made chemical weapon.
- Second: The enemy has chemical bombs/shells with the (CS) agent; some of them were used in 1983 in the Mehran sector and there is nothing preventing the enemy from producing or importing these bombs.
- Third: [*The enemy*] is expected to produce small quantities of the Mustard agent.
- Fourth: The enemy makes every effort to reach an advanced stage of producing chemical agents.
- Fifth: Possessing the power of an effective chemical attack is going to push the enemy to use this power if; our forces use this weapon, or if his attack fails, or if he faces a strong defense in an important direction even if we do not use chemical weapons.

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- Sixth: In order to prevent unexpected situations and the possibility of obtaining this weapon even in very small quantities, we suggest intensifying the preventive measures of our troops against the main attack in particular.
- B- In our top secret and personal letter no. Directorate 5/Section 13/8343 of April 14, 1988, addressed to the Armed Forces General Command regarding the enemy's use of chemical ammunition, article 3 of paragraph (C) on page 3 stated the following:
- We learned from a source with good capability to obtain information that Iran acquired raw chemical materials related to the production of Mustard gas and Tabun from North Korea. They were produced with the help of experts from North Korea. The aforesaid experts are conducting experiments in Mashhad and Iran Shahr, but the quantity of production is very little.
- C- Our top secret and personal letter no. Directorate 5/Section 19/6244 of March 26, 1988, sent to the Presidency of the Republic — Secretary, included a summary of the locations and timing of the enemy's use of chemical agents during the war.
- D- A draft letter addressed to the Armed Forces General Command Secretariat was written about the capability of the enemy to carry out chemical attacks by aircraft –

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-- Or artillery that will most likely be used against the Headquarters (In light of the special source information of June 8, 1988). The draft letter was submitted for signature and only the

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draft was returned, but not the typed letter.

Please review.

[Signature]

Staff Colonel

Section 19 Director

June 27, 1988

Mr. Deputy,

In addition, the sources were notified of the enemy's possible special attack on the region of the latest operation. Also, the [Illegible] and the 3rd Corps were notified to check the protective gear due to possible attack according to the Deputy's instructions.

Please review.

[Signature]

June 30

A detailed report on the enemy's chemical capabilities needs to be sent to the higher authorities and the Corps.

[Signature]

June 28

Department 1,

Please prepare the report.

[Signature]

June 29

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The text of the news article published in issue no. 17, volume 7 of the *Jane's Defense Weekly* issued on May 2, 1987, regarding the fact-findings of the United Nations about the chemical conflict in the Gulf War.

The United Nations Start their Inquiry into the Chemical Conflict in the Gulf War

The United Nations team of four people is currently visiting Tehran to investigate the accusations of Iran, saying that Iraq used chemical weapons in the Gulf war, as well as the accusations of Iraq saying that Iran has now started to use chemical weapons also.

Specialists from the United Nations will be heading to Baghdad after finishing with Tehran. This is the first time the Iraqis allowed the verification of allegations that the Iranians have been spreading for years now.

The team of the United Nations includes Dr. Gustav Andersson, head of the chemical Division at the Swedish Defense Research Institute; Dr. Peter Dawn, a scientist from the Australian Defense

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Department; Colonel Elric [*illegible*] from the defense biological chemical weapons department at the Swiss Ministry of Defense; and, Dr. Manuel Dominguez, doctor of the Spanish Army and specialist in biological weapons.

The visit came after Iran's repeated requests for United Nations investigation, and took place in the midst of reports on the increased use of the Mustard and Nerve gas by Iraq. The Iranians warned they were going to use chemical weapons if the Iraqi attacks do not stop.

On April 21, the war media center in Tehran warned that Iran is going to use their means to stop the use of chemical weapons by Iraq if the United Nations fails to stop Iraq. The war media council stated briefly that "Iran is going to use chemical weapons." The general director of the war media council, Kamal Kharazi, however, explained lately that Iran now has the capability to produce chemical weapons, including a "new type of poisonous gas." "There are ethical considerations. However, if Iraq forces us to use these weapons, we have all it takes to start the production," he added.

Iran repeatedly accused Iraq of using chemical weapons, and the most recent use was in the recurring attacks on the Kurdish villages in northern Iraq in order to stop the escalated raids of the Kurdish rebels supported by Iran.

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan claimed last week that Iraqi fighter bomber aircraft [*continued on next page*]

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dropped chemical bombs on a Kurdish village there over three days earlier this month, which resulted in killing 20 people and wounding 300 others.

Iraq neither confirmed nor denied its use of chemical weapons in the war that started in September 1980, yet Iraq was against allowing the United Nations specialists to visit its territories.

Following the visit of experts to Iran in 1984 & 1986, the United Nations confirmed the use of poisonous projectiles, nerve gas, and shells against the Iranian forces.

Enclosures: News text

Jane's Defense Weekly
Vol. 7 No. 17 – May 2, 1987 June 25, 1987

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The text of the news article published in *The Middle East Business Weekly* issue No. 21 Vol. 31 of May 23-29, 1987.

Ethiopia Agrees to Supply Iran with its Stock of American Weapons

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Ethiopia has agreed to supply its old stock of American-made weapons.

Al-Ittihad Ethiopian newspaper issued in Abu-Dhabi reported the statement of diplomats in London saying that the weapons will include combat aircraft, tanks, and guns.

The Middle East Business Weekly
Vol. 31, No. 21 – 23-29 May, 1987

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic Secretary

General Military Intelligence Directorate
Office of the 5th Adjutant
(Iran)

To: First Department Staff Officer RE: Information

- 1- We learned from our Iraqi Consulate in Abu-Dhabi about a contract signed between Iran and Britain in early 1988 for the purchase of 130,000 chemical protection suits. The first batch of the transaction was delivered as per an urgent request from Iran.
- 2- There is an insecticide plant called (Marvdasht), located 80-85 km to the southeast of Tehran. The plant was developed to manufacture chemical weapons with the cooperation of a company from West Germany and with the participation of East Germany and the Syrian regime. The plant produces Mustard gas, Tabun, and Sarin.
- 3- We reviewed the information received from the military attachés in (Amman, Jeddah, Bonn, Paris, Moscow, Washington, London, Rome, Cairo, and Belgrade) in our top secret letter 90874 of June 1, 1988. The replies were as follows:
 - A- Military Attaché - Paris: the information is confirmed and the contract was signed via a Portuguese bank in London with the mediation of a French person who owns a company in a guarded area.
 - B- Military Attaché - London: the information is confirmed and a contract was signed with the British company, (Houshest), through an office in the British city of Cardiff.
 - C- Military Attaché - Amman: the information is confirmed with regard to paragraph 2 of our above-mentioned letter.

(1 – 3)

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- D- Military Attaché - Bonn: article 1 is confirmed. As far as article 2, it is not confirmed. However, there is a plant to the Southeast of Tehran, in (Al-Barz) region that is 40 kilometers to the north of the Sadeh area. The plant has been developed and

converted by a company from West Germany.

- E- Military Attaché - Washington: article 1 is confirmed; article 2 is not confirmed.
- F- Military Attaché - Moscow: first, Iran has concluded a contract with Britain for the purchase of quantities of chemical protection masks. Second, the aforesaid plant is similar to one of the factories in the Syrian city of Al-Hasakeh, where there was a plant that previously manufactured some modern materials.
- G- Military Attaché - Jeddah: there is no available information on this issue.
- H- Military Attaché - Rome: the information is still under follow-up and revision — (the information was confirmed today) September 15, 1988.
- I- Military Attaché - Belgrade: their sources, including (Yugoslavian Military Intelligence) have no confirmed information.

- 4- The esteemed Presidency has requested in its top secret and personal letter 3279/K of August 9, 1988 the name of the aforesaid company, owned by a French person in a guarded area, and the name of the bank through which the transaction was concluded as well.

(2 – 3)

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- 5- In our top secret letter 8245 of August 12, 1988, we requested the Military Attaché in Paris - London to provide us with the full name of the company owned by a French person and the name of the bank through which the transaction mentioned in article 1 of our letter was concluded, as well as the name of the company's office in the British city of Cardiff.
- 6- The Military Attaché in Paris replied in its top secret letter 892 of August 30, 1988 and said that the information was reviewed together with [redacted name], who stated that he does not recall the name of the French company, but rather the name of the Portuguese bank in London (Banco Portugoise D'Atlantico). He was confident the transaction was concluded through the aforesaid bank, he added.
- 7- We still are waiting for a reply from the Military Attaché in London.

Please review and advise.

[Signature]
Intelligence Warrant Officer [redacted name],
September 15, 1988

(3 – 3)

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Consulate General of the
Republic of Iraq
Dubai

No.: 79

Date: May 28, 1988

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Section 19

141 [Chemical Section] May 31

To: The General Military Intelligence Directorate — Office of the 5th Adjutant

RE: Information

We learned from Source No. 1 the following information:

1- The transaction concluded by Iran for the purchase of 130,000 suits for protection against chemical weapons, which we informed you of in our secret and immediate letter 267 of May 21, 1988, is considered an important matter since the purchase of such a large number of suits gives the impression that the Iranians most likely plan to select a specific target at the front that will have an impact on the country. They could launch a surprise attack with chemical weapons on this target, and then attack it directly following the first attack—taking advantage of the opportunity given by the chemical attack and the engagement of our troops in the decontamination process—where a large number of the Khomeini guards wearing these suits enter the attacked area and become firmly established before our troops get the chance to launch a counterattack.

2- There is a plant that is 80-85 kilometers to the southeast of Tehran, called Marvdasht that used to be an insecticide plant. The Iranians developed it and converted it for the production of chemical weapons with the cooperation of a company from West Germany. An East German company contributed to its development later on, and Syria also had the same role (meaning helped in its development) as of 1985. The aforesaid plant currently produces Mustard gas, Tabun and Sarin.

(1 – 2)

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3- There are some retired Pakistani consultants, as well as military consultants from North Korea currently working in Iran. The aforesaid source believes that these consultants are going to contribute in the planning to carry out such an attack (meaning the attack mentioned in

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article 1).

4- Comment

I asked the aforesaid source whether the use of chemical weapons by the enemy that was mentioned in article 1 above was the result of information they received or not. I learned it was their opinion and their analysis, in which they relied on the request of the Persian enemy of this enormous amount of special suits for protection against chemical weapons, and the enemy's capability to manufacture poisonous chemical agents through the Mardabakht plant.

Please review,

With regards,

[Signature]

Ahmed Nayef Muhammed

Embassy 1st Secretary

To: The Deputy

Please review and advice on reporting the information to sections 13 and 19.

[Signature]

Captain

May 31, 1988

[The following are miscellaneous hand-written notes that read as follows]

To be turned over to Section 19 for follow-up and revision.

[Signature]

May 31, 1988

To Department 1,

Please review the information of all attachés

[Signature]

May 31

(2- 2)

Top Secret and Personal

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Republic of Iraq – State Organization of PTT [*PTT stands for Postal, Telegram, and Telephone*]

16
May 29

Britain + [*illegible*]

From: The Iraqi Consulate in Abu-Dhabi – Secret and Immediate May 21
To: The General Military Intelligence Directorate - Office of the 5th Adjutant

No. 267//Source No. 1 has informed us of the following // 1 // Iran has purchased 130,000 suits for protection against chemical weapons from Britain // 1 // the first batch was received and [*illegible*] has started in batches as per an urgent request from Iran // please review, with regards.

[The following are miscellaneous hand-written notes that read as follows]

To the Deputy,
Please review and advise on turning the information over to Section 19 for endorsement and follow-up.
[Signature]
Captain
May 21, 1988

Secret Incoming Telegram Received at 1255 hours on May 21 Given a number at 13:00 hours on May 21 [<i>Illegible</i>] incoming at 1310 hours on May 21 [Signature]

For follow-up
[Signature]
May 22

It was endorsed in the chemical file and country cooperation record

A copy of this telegram to be sent to the chemical department

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Embassy of the Republic Of Iraq
Military Attaché's Office
Cairo

Secret and Personal

No.: 435

Date: September 14, 1988

To: The General Military Intelligence Directorate — Section 19

RE: Reply

Reference is made to your secret letter 132893 of August 23, 1988. We would like to point out to the following in its regard:

- 1- Your top secret letter 90874 of June 1, 1988 reached our attaché before I reported to Cairo.
- 2- We have not received any information yet confirming what was mentioned in your letter above.
- 3- We obtained information from Egyptian intelligence regarding the Iranian cooperation with both Spain and Libya in the chemical weapons field as follows:
 - A- The Iranian attempts to obtain chemical weapons and equipment from Spain through brokers in 1987.
 - B- An agreement signed between Iran and Libya in late 1987, according to which Libya will obtain chemical weapons from Iran who will get the Russian made Scud B missiles in return.
 - C- The seizing of 8 cargo containers of 6,000 kilograms of chemical weapons at Rotterdam port in Holland that was sent to Iran in March 1988 aboard the Iran Adalat ship.

Please review,

With regards.

[Signature]

Staff Brigadier General

Raad Abd-al-Majid Faysal, Military Attaché in Cairo

Department 1,

[Signature]

September 18, 1988

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The news text published in issue No. 18 Vol. 7 of *Jane's Defense Weekly*, issued on May 9, 1987 regarding Iranian submarines.

Iranian Submarines

The Iranian Central News Unit has quoted in a report from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Minister, Mohsen Rafiq Dost, who said, "The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy is on the verge of launching its first submarine." "Twenty thousand people from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and other groups have received training at the navy center on sea operations and diving in the last twelve months. This was part of the efforts made to provide and consolidate the cadre required for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy," the minister also added.

Jane's Defense Weekly
Vol. 7 No. 18 – May 9, 1987

Enclosures: the news origin

June 25, 1987

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

General Military Intelligence Directorate
Directorate 5/Section 19
(Iran)

To: The Section Director
RE: Information

Reference is made to the comment of your Excellency on the copy of Section 20's letter No./Special/25270 of November 24, 1987, article 14 related to Marvdasht and Esfahan plants for chemical production.

- 1- We have information on Marvdasht chemical plant in a special file that was previously reviewed by the military attachés abroad. The information related to the plant has been reported to the Air Intelligence Directorate.
- 2- We also have information on the help offered to the Iranian enemy by experts from West Germany and Switzerland to expand the insecticide plant in (Esfahan) in order to produce Mustard gas.

Please review and advise, Sir.

SH-GMID-D-000-898
[Signature]
Intelligence Warrant Officer
[Redacted name]
November 24, 1987

(1 – 1)

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In the Name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful

Presidency of the Republic
Secretary

General Military Intelligence Directorate
No: Directorate 5/Section 20/Special/25270
Date: November 24, 1987

Top Secret and Personal

To: The Presidency of the Republic – Secretary
RE: Information

On November 21, 1987, the special source provided us with the following information:

1- On November 6, 1987, Iraqi aircraft attacked Al-Razi Petrochemical Plant in Mahshahr, coordinates 2033 north /4912 east. The strike resulted in the killing of one person and wounding 15 others. Two units of the plant were also greatly damaged because of the fire (no additional information available).

Comment

Four important areas of Al-Razi plant and Iran Nipon [Farabi] were hit, and the raw materials warehouses were on fire for 24 hours.

2- On November 4, 1987, an Iraqi helicopter attacked a ship belonging to the Iranian navy in the second sea zone (Bushehr) with two air-to-surface Exocet missiles. One of these missiles caused major damage to the ship (no additional information available).

Comment

Our naval forces did not carry out this activity.

3- On November 10, 1987, an Iraqi fighter aircraft attacked the high voltage power plant near Al-Amadiyah, coordinates 3045 north / 4944 east. The aircraft sent two missiles to the plant, in this way destroying the control center, cooling unit, and a workers building.

Department 1,
It has been endorsed in the chemical file

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Comment

The main control room of the plant was destroyed.

4- On November 11, 1987, four Iraqi fighter aircraft attacked the oil and gas pumping station numbers 1 & 2 located approximately 6 kilometers to the south of Al-Amadiyah. The attack on pump station 1 resulted in killing one person and injuring 11 others, in addition to incurring big damages to the station. As for station 2, it suffered from secondary damages only.

5- On November 11, 1987 also, Iraqi carriers attacked a Cypriot oil carrier at 25 miles from Bandar-e-Abbas, coordinates 2857 north /5050 east. The carrier was loaded with oil from Kharg Island, coordinates 2915 north/5019 east, at the time of the attack. The strike caused a large fire and inflicted major damage on the carrier.

6- On November 14, 1987, two Iraqi aircraft attacked the oil and gas pumping station ('Abd-al-Khan), located between Al-Ahwaz and Andimeshk, causing the injury of seven people and inflicting unknown damages on the station. In addition on November 14, 1987, four Iraqi fighter aircraft attacked the oil and gas pumping station in Agha Jari, coordinates 3042 north/4950 east, causing the injury of 11 people and inflicting major damage on the station as a result (no additional information available).

7- On November 15, 1987, four Iraqi fighter aircraft attacked the village of Kamian to the north of Bakhtaran, coordinates 3025 north/4811 east, resulting in [*continued on next page*]

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C- Smoke Firing

13 smoke bombs over the entire Corps sector, with concentration on the sector of the 418th Brigade, 8th Division Bobian, and the 503rd Brigade, 11th Division (to the north of small Shatt-al-'Arab).

D- Guns and Mortars

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Within the normal range.

E- Conclusions

The artillery bombing is within normal range.

4- Engineering Effort

A- The active engineering effort concentrated before the corps sector in the Bobian, Zayd, Al-Shalamjeh, Al-Kishk, and Ghuzayl regions with 16 – 18 shovels daily in order to maintain and elevate the embankments. The engineering effort was concentrated in the Zayd region and the northern part of the Bobian marshes.

B- On October 11, the enemy carried out an explosion near ‘Atabah – Tannumah crossroad, in front of the positions of the 503rd Brigade, 11th Division (to the north of small Shatt-al-‘Arab).

C- On October 11, the enemy built a concertina wire obstacle of 50 meters long without pegs by the 503rd Brigade (to the north of small Shatt-al-‘Arab).

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D- Conclusions

The engineering work of the enemy to finish and reinforce the covers especially to the north of the Bobian marshes is in the area between the border barrage and the front cover of the enemy.

5- Photographic Aerial Reconnaissance

On October 15, a photographic aerial reconnaissance of Majnoun, Ghuzayl, and Al-Kishk regions took place, but did not show up any key changes to the size of the enemy’s presence and artillery in the directions mentioned above.

6- Wireless Reconnaissance

The wireless networks are within their normal range.

7- Air Activity

On October 17, three drone aircraft appeared from the north of the Bobian [area] to Al-Shalamjeh – Tannumah road south, with an altitude ranging between 1-2 kilometers and distance between 500 meters to 3 kilometers from our leading forces.

8- Other Information

Below is the information we received from the Intelligence Apparatus and other sources:

A- On October 12, we learned from the Intelligence Apparatus about heavy concentrations of the Guards and Basij at the 12th Division camp in Al-Ahwaz. The Iranian Command issued strict instructions to their forces to deploy between the palm trees in Al-Muhammara and 'Abadan regions.

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B- On October 12, we received a signal indicating that the Guards photographed the region of Zayd and the Bobian marshes.

C- On October 12, the Intelligence Apparatus informed us that both the Muslim expert Hasan Rohani, Head of the Air Defense Committee in the Iranian Shura Council, and the administrative director of Khatam al-Anbiya' Headquarters in Al-Ahwaz, headed out. It is also possible for Rafsanjani to go to the aforesaid Headquarters in the near future.

D- On October 14, our consulate in Istanbul informed us that the leaves of the Guards, Basij, and regular forces were stopped in the southern sector. A heavy movement of the Guards and Basij forces was detected towards Al-Ahwaz that put the military hospital number 578 in Al-Ahwaz on a high alert status. Patients were evacuated.

E- On October 15, the Intelligence Apparatus informed us of talks among the foreign companies working in the country saying that the Iranian enemy plans to launch a big attack on the city of Basra in the next few days.

9- Summary of Conclusions

A- The summary of activities indicates the emergence of new enemy interests in the area between the Zayd police station in the north and down to the Shatt-al-'Arab in the south.

B- The heavy engineering activities and drone aircraft reconnaissance sorties indicate a possibility that the enemy might expedite his future offensive intentions.

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In the name of God, most Gracious, most merciful

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We will work on identifying the likely time [*for this to happen*] in light of future indications.

Please review.

[Signature]
Staff Colonel
Staff Officer of Department 4
October 17, 1987

For follow-up please
[Signature]
October 20

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