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A recent radio report by a clandestine anti-Khomeini Iranian radio station accuses Iran of using CW against Iraq; the broadcast is a propaganda attempt to counter charges against Iraq for the same offense--charges that we believe are accurate.

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IRAQ/IRAN: CHEMICAL WARFARE []

Radio Iran, a clandestine anti-Khomeini Iranian radio station, reported on 15 November 1983 that the Democratic Party of Kordestan (Kurdish insurgents in Iran) has said that the Khomeini regime is using chemical weapons in its war against Kurdish fighters. The broadcast stated that the Islamic Republic (Iran) has of late been accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons in the war zones and had lodged a complaint regarding it with the United Nations. The announcer commented that reliable observers believe it is the Khomeini regime itself which is using chemical weapons against the Kurdish forces and now is pinning responsibility on Iraq. []

Comment:

[] Several Iranian press releases this fall have accused Iraq of CW use. Through the recent radio report, an attempt is being made to counter these earlier charges by waging a disinformation and propaganda campaign that accuses Iran of the same acts. We believe Iran has not used CW. []

Continued counter-accusations probably will result in making it difficult to firmly identify the culpable nation when the use of CW in the Iran-Iraq war is debated in international forums. Although there still is worldwide public doubt about whether CW was in fact used by the Soviets in Afghanistan, the evidential case for the use of CW in the Iran-Iraq war will be clear-cut. What may emerge as a principal issue is the question of which combatant is using it. []

The perpetrator will be difficult to obtain especially if CW use stops, since:

-- Civilians and towns on both sides of the border have been hit with chemical agents.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-- Both sides are obtaining artillery and bomb shells from international sources--making it difficult to determine who fired a particular munition.

-- Chemical casualties have been suffered by military forces on both sides. [REDACTED]

An ambiguous case for unilateral use by Iraq may provide an opportunity for nations, unable or unwilling to take a public stance against Iraq, to oppose strong international sanctions against Iraq, to call for time consuming investigations, or to sidestep the issue entirely. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]