



MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

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D/MIN(AF)/JS/5/3/11

20 January 1984

*Prime Minister.*

*Dear Richard.*

*A.S.C. 20*

As you know we have discussed the now definite evidence of Iraqi use of chemical weapons in the war against Iran, and the recent Iranian allegations that the UK has been supplying such weapons to Iraq - allegations which have been coupled with the threat that our supposed actions would not go unanswered.

Michael Heseltine and I are most concerned at these developments as I know you are, not only because of the importance of preventing the use of chemical weapons but also because of the very real danger that these Iranian misapprehensions may markedly increase the threat to our people in the Lebanon, the Gulf, and perhaps even in the UK. I am glad to know that the FCO is considering what might be done to put pressure on Iraq, and that prompt and firm action has been taken to rebut the Iranian allegations both with the authorities in Tehran and with the Iranian representative here. I gather, however, that there were some difficulties, at least initially, in ensuring that our reputation had reached the highest levels in Iran, and I think it would be valuable to repeat and reinforce our message to guarantee that it gets to the highest possible level.

On the suggestion that there might be some association between food processing plant originally supplied from Britain and the Iraqi production of chemical agents, I will be in touch with you again when I have further information.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

*Yours truly,*  
*John Stanley*

JOHN STANLEY

Richard Luce Esq MP