

Reply of the Islamic Republic of Iran
To the U.S. Statement (19 November 2001)

Mr. President.

Exercising my right of reply, according Rule 19 of the Rule and Procedures. I would like to give the following response to the statement made by L'S delegation in morning session:

The allegation made against my country is baseless and I hereby categorically reject it.

Islamic Republic of Iran is party to all treaties related to the weapons of mass destruction that is the NPT, CWC and BWC. My country has fully cooperated with the relevant organizations namely the IAEA and the OPCW. As far as we are concerned with "the BWC my delegation has been one of the most active delegation during the past decade , specially in the Ad Hoc Group Negotiation. Islamic Republic of Iran has voluntarily submitted detailed information on biological activities through the Confidence Building Measure (CBM).

Mr. President

We are of the belief that these kind of allegations by one state party against other state party will cause confrontation instead of cooperation and may lead the conference to total failure. Bearing in mind the unjustified position of the US during the 24th session of the Ad Hoc Group which caused the failure of that session one could conclude that US has the intention of leading this conference to a dead lock and failure. US is not in favour of multilateralism The unfortunate fate of the CTBT ,ABM and the Kyoto Protocol are examples of the dangerous mentality of the US administration which definitely increase armament and the threat against global peace and security. Proposals such as the NMD ,and the unilateral approach as a substitute for the BWC protocol proves this school of thoughts.

In order to prove the double standard and dishonesty of the US in dealing with such delicate issues ,I have to draw your kind attention to the fact the Israel is fully supported by US in spite of its clandestine activities and not joining the essential treaties namely BWC,CWC,NPT and ignoring totally the IAEA's safeguards.

My country as the main victim of the weapons of mass destruction has serious concerns about the US violation the provisions of the BWC by transferring deadly agents to Israel and other allies as well as conduction of research and development in the area of biological weapons. I refer you to the New York Times dated 5th September 2001 in this regards.

I have to remind the US delegation was the only one trying to dilute the verification provisions. US has tried to have free hand refraining from receiving any international inspectors. The US congress reservation on the LWL challenge inspection which is clear violation proves this claim.

Mr. President,

Immediately after the US statement at the 24th Session of the Ad Hoc Group the spokesman of the Whitehouse announced the United States has decided to reject the Protocol since Iran is supporting it ' I wonder if US will withdraw

from the BWC since Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly supporting it ?

Mr.President

I express my regret that such actions and the legitimate reactions would put the spirit of cooperation in jeopardy .I therefore advise the US delegation to refrain from such premature behavior accusing other member state in this family group which we are expected to strengthen our convention , instead I recommend it to put pressure on non-state parties to join the Convention

I thank you Mr. Chairman

