

**Syrie - Attaque chimique -
Remarques à la presse du
représentant permanent de la
France auprès des Nations unies**
(New York, 05 avril 2017)

(En français et en anglais)

Just a few words on my side :

First of all, France, together with the UK, called for this emergency meeting of the Security Council following the reported chemical attack yesterday in Idlib. This horrendous attack is the worst chemical attack in Syria since the events in the Ghoutta in August 2013 and is yet another of so many barbaric acts perpetrated against civilians in Syria. Number one.

Number two, all the elements that we have converge to demonstrate the direct responsibility of the Syrian regime, which, by the way, has a long and heavy record in this respect. That's why it's so important to shed full light on these unacceptable acts. We can simply not accept the trivialization of the use of chemical weapons. That's why it's so important also to punish those who are responsible. In our draft, the Security Council expresses its determination that those responsible must be held accountable. We are talking about war crimes here, war crimes in a large scale, war crimes with chemical weapons, so it's not only about determining who is responsible, it is about punishing those who are responsible. That's number two.

Number three, if you think about it, the moral and strategic stakes cannot be higher here. Moral because we are talking about the most barbaric kind of warfare, chemical weapons, weapons that were used during World War One, a hundred years ago. Isn't that the negation of all civilization ? Strategic stakes also. If we look away, if we close our eyes to the use of chemical weapons against civilian populations, what legitimacy will we have in the future, when it comes to condemning nuclear terrorism, to condemning attempts of bacteriological apocalypse ? Who can assume such responsibility before History ? On the scale of the threat to peace and security, we are at ten here.

Given its influence on the regime, given its support to the regime, we consider that Russia has a special responsibility to bring this tragedy to a close. And so we urge Russia to exert much stronger pressure to the regime. From a different perspective, in a different way, we also need an America that is seriously committed to a solution in Syria and that puts all its weight behind it. If not now, when ?

Q - Est-ce qu'on pourrait avoir une annonce française, s'il vous plait Monsieur l'Ambassadeur ?

R - La France a pris l'initiative de cette réunion d'urgence du conseil de sécurité à la suite des ignobles attaques chimiques qui se sont produites hier en Syrie. Ce sont les attaques les plus meurtrières depuis celles qui avaient eu lieu dans la Ghoutta en 2013.

Face à ces attaques, le conseil de sécurité a la responsabilité morale et politique de réagir et de réagir fortement. C'est l'objet du projet de résolution que la France, avec les Britanniques et les Américains, a mis sur la table. Si le conseil de sécurité n'est pas capable de réagir et de réagir fermement quand non seulement le risque de prolifération des armes de destruction massive, mais leur usage et leur usage de surcroît contre les populations civiles sont en jeu, alors la crédibilité du conseil de sécurité se pose.

Face à cela, nous appelons la Russie à exercer des pressions beaucoup plus fortes sur le régime de Damas. Et nous devons tous retrousser nos manches pour déterminer une solution politique en Syrie, qui sera la seule vraie réponse au drame que nous vivons et pour cela nous avons besoin des efforts de tous./.