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LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the statement concerning the situation in southern Lebanon which you made in your capacity as President of the Security Council at its meeting on 15 May 1979, I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to state the following:

Israel supports the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries.

As has been acknowledged by the Secretary-General in several of his reports concerning UNIFIL, the situation in the south of Lebanon cannot be detached from the situation in the country as a whole. Attempts to do so will not enhance the cause of international peace and security, and in fact are bound to fail.

The terrorist groups operating under the umbrella of the murder organization calling itself the PLO are subverting the situation in the south of Lebanon, just as they are doing in the rest of the country. There are some 2,000 armed PLO terrorists south of the Litani River, and they constitute a threat to three tangible targets: to the citizens of Israel, particularly in the north of Israel; to the villagers in southern Lebanon; and to the men of UNIFIL in the fulfilment of their mandate.

Beyond that, the PLO terrorists constitute a menace to the restoration of Lebanese authority in the south as they do in other parts of that troubled country.

Moreover, the restoration of the effective authority of Lebanon throughout its territory is severely hampered by the fact that Lebanon is occupied and controlled by other foreign forces, principally the Syrian army of occupation.

It is essential to face the fundamental problems of Lebanon with realism. Until the nettle of restoring international peace and security is grasped, there can be no real prospect of restoring the authority of Lebanon over all its territory within its internationally recognized boundaries.

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It is obvious that in the present situation of terrorist intervention and subversion, as well as foreign domination in Lebanon imposed by the so-called PLO and Syria against the true interests of the people of Lebanon, the mandate of UNIFIL as set out in Security Council resolution 425 (1978) cannot be successfully implemented.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations