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LETTER DATED 5 JUNE 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

1. On 12 May 1970, Israel launched a major military attack against south-east Lebanon. The Security Council meeting in an urgent session on that same day adopted its resolution 279 demanding "the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli armed forces from Lebanese territory".

2. By ordering the withdrawal of those forces, the clear and categorical intention of the Council was that they should refrain from any further encroachment on Lebanon's territorial integrity or any violation of her national sovereignty.

3. This intention was also confirmed by Security Council resolution 280 of 19 May 1970, which did not only "condemn Israel for its premeditated military action in violation of its obligations under the Charter", but went further to declare that such armed attacks can no longer be tolerated, and reiterated "its solemn warning to Israel that if they were to be repeated, the Security Council would, in accordance with resolution 262 (1968) and this resolution, consider taking adequate and effective steps or measures in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter to implement its resolutions".

4. It follows that the Security Council, in the two aforementioned resolutions, has determined, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter, that Israel should "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity" of Lebanon.

5. In violation of the two aforementioned resolutions, of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, of the terms of the Lebanon-Israel Armistice Agreement and of international law, Israel has since 22 May 1970 pursued deliberate, systematic and continuing acts of aggression against Lebanon.

6. On 22 May 1970, I have addressed to the President of the Security Council a letter (document S/9811) in which I have informed the Council that the Israeli armed forces have indiscriminately and unjustifiably shelled four Lebanese villages in southern Lebanon, where twenty civilians were killed, forty injured and one hundred and fifty houses destroyed or damaged.

7. It has been established since then that the great majority of the killed and wounded were children and women and that the houses completely destroyed or severely damaged were 204.

8. In contravention of the whole concept of the United Nations international legal order, Israel has been following since 22 May a new militaristic policy consisting in continuously sending her armed forces into Lebanon, a Member State of the United Nations.

9. In pursuance of this policy, Israel committed and continues to commit acts of violence, terror and warfare against Lebanon:

(a) Israeli forces consisting of tanks, half tracks and armoured vehicles have been crossing daily into Lebanese territory;

(b) Israeli artillery has been daily shelling civilian centres and military targets within that territory;

(c) On 25 May, Israeli forces clashed on Lebanese territory with a Lebanese patrol, killing one Lebanese officer and one soldier and wounding six other soldiers;

(d) On 25 May and on 1 June, Israeli air force participated in the bombing;

(e) On 25 May, Israel's armed forces began the opening of two roads inside Lebanese territory at a depth of 800 metres from the border for their own military use.

10. As a result of the cumulative acts of aggression begun by Israel against Lebanon on 12 May 1970 and of the campaign of terror she has launched against the peaceful and peace-loving people of southern Lebanon, 50,000 persons

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constituting half of the population of the affected areas have left their homes and villages and sought refuge in other Lebanese regions. This exodus has inflicted untold sufferings on those innocent civilians and created severe human, social and economic problems to them and to the country as a whole.

11. Israeli military officials have been arrogantly referring to the incursions by their forces as being "policing", "patrolling", "probing" activities. Both Generals Dayan and Gur, in proffering their threats against Lebanon, recently declared that the new Israeli policy of patrolling the Lebanese side of the border will continue. Whatever is the description the Israelis give to their illegal activities, it remains absolutely undisputable that they are nothing but wanton and premeditated acts of aggression committed by Israel in utter disregard of international law and morality.

12. It is the belief of the Lebanese Government that those acts of aggression reveal a calculated plan aiming at a military aggression on a larger scale against southern Lebanon. Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Allon has often stated his regret that Israel has not occupied southern Lebanon up to the Litani River. Most Israeli newspapers including the semi-official Jerusalem-Post referred, on 25 May 1970, to the possibility of occupying large Lebanese sectors on the Syrian-Lebanese border or in southern Lebanon up to the Litani River.

13. The Lebanese Government's belief is further substantiated by the fact that the Israeli military units cross into Lebanon under the false pretext of pursuing Palestinian commandos. Their activities have not yielded any military result and not a single commando has been found. Furthermore, the Israeli artillery has been purposely shelling the already afflicted villages to forestall all efforts by the Lebanese Government to reintegrate the displaced persons in their villages and homes. It is apparent that the Israeli objective is to completely empty those villages from their inhabitants. The New York Times of 31 May, in an article written from Jerusalem by Lawrence Fellows, referred to the "new refugees" in Lebanon and stated the following:

"Now the band of scorched earth around Israel has been extended to the northern border, and the refugees are streaming into Beirut and into other towns in Lebanon. Israeli Army patrols take up positions on the hills and ridges on the Lebanese side of the border each day. Israeli tanks rumble around the deserted villages and when a Lebanese Army artillery position tried to offer resistance, it was destroyed."

14. By breaching the territorial integrity of Lebanon, by infringing upon her national sovereignty, by defying the Security Council resolutions, by persistently violating the United Nations Charter and by further extending the area of conflict, Israel is deliberately creating a new focus of danger in the Middle East, thus further endangering the peace and security of Lebanon and heightening the tension and perils in the area.

15. The Lebanese Government (a) strongly protests against Israel's violations of Lebanon's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, (b) draws the attention of the Security Council to the gravity of the situation created by Israel and (c) forewarns that unless Israel desists forthwith from pursuing the perilous course she has undertaken, the Security Council will be duty bound to shoulder its responsibility.

I respectfully request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Edouard GHORRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
