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LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Government of Lebanon wishes to draw your attention to the recent acts of aggression committed by Israel, and the clear, unequivocal, and insolent violation of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, which called upon Israel "immediately to cease its military action against Lebanese territorial integrity, and withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory" (para. 2).

Not only has the Israeli Army been engaged in military action inside Lebanese territory, but it has also come into direct confrontation with UNIFIL and is now taking positions within the "area of operation," proclaiming defiantly its intention to "carry out patrols in south Lebanon". This proclamation accompanied a massive and continuing deployment of troops, tanks, armoured cars, etc., as well as air reconnaissance flights.

These developments take us back to the status quo ante 13 June 1978, date at which Israel pretended to have withdrawn from Lebanon. It then established a surrogate occupation and, as has since been ascertained by the Council, continued its military activities inside the internationally recognized boundaries.

The Lebanese Government has firmly and consistently maintained the position that UNIFIL must be enabled to deploy freely, implement fully its mandate, and establish the objective conditions for peace and security in the border area, in a manner that will render the General Armistice Agreement of 1949 totally operative. Needless to state, Israel has no less consistently challenged this position and obstructed all efforts to that effect.

My Government strongly believes in UNIFIL and is highly appreciative and grateful for the efforts deployed. We have constantly paid tribute to the gallant behaviour of the Force and wish to take this opportunity to say how criminal, scandalous and inadmissible are the harassments and attacks to which the Force has been subjected, and to express our grave concern at the incidents that have imperilled, for the past few days, the lives of officers and men, particularly from the Irish contingent, in whose area action has been taking place. No less serious and regrettable is of course the accident which endangered the life of Colonel van Genugten of the Netherlands, Chief of Operations of UNIFIL. We sympathize fully and unreservedly with the Force, and hope that its gallant efforts will not have been in vain.

This very morning, before the House of Parliament, the Lebanese Government has reiterated its position concerning UNIFIL, which the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister had already, on 8 April, amply stated before a joint meeting of the Defence and Foreign Relations Committees as follows:

1. Total solidarity with the efforts deployed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and full appreciation of his diplomatic action;
2. Unconditional support for UNIFIL's mandate and confidence in its mission in the service of peace in the whole region;
3. Full support and appreciation for UNIFIL and the efforts of the troop-contributing countries, as well as the efforts deployed by other friendly Governments.

In the light of the above, and to put an end to Israeli aggression and enable UNIFIL to acquire full control of the totality of its area of operations, I am under instructions from my Government to request a meeting of the Security Council at your earliest possible convenience.

You are kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
