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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 15 June 1968 from the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to your attention the following.

At midnight, on Friday, 14 June 1968, a group of the Israeli armed forces crossed the borders of Lebanon near the village of Hula. They shelled the village of Meis Eljabal with thirty mortar shells.

As a result of this shelling, four civilians were wounded and ten houses were destroyed; two of the civilians, a man and a woman, are in a very critical condition.

This wanton and unprovoked attack by Israel was not preceded by any firing from Lebanese territory across the Lebanese borders as alleged by Israeli broadcasts; nor was it preceded by any infiltration across those borders.

This new aggression by Israel against Lebanon reveals, beyond any shadow of doubt, Israel's expansionist policy and designs, and confirms what I have stated in my letter to you on 20 May 1968 (S/8591):

"The acts committed by Israel against Lebanese territories demonstrate its expansionist aims and aggressive intentions towards Lebanon, particularly that these acts occurred in the aftermath of a number of declarations by high Israeli officials uncovering Israeli expansionist ambitions for Lebanese waters and for the southern part of Lebanon."

These acts of aggression by Israel and its expansionist ambitions threaten peace in the area and further deteriorate the situation.

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I am confident that they cannot be condoned nor tolerated by the international community; they constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules and norms of international law.

May I respectfully request that this letter be circulated as a General Assembly document.

(<u>Signed</u>) Souheil CHAMMAS
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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