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LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Once more, I am writing on instructions from my Government to bring to your attention further acts of hostility in South Lebanon, in violation of Security Council resolutions.

On Friday, 23 May 1980, Israeli shells hit the city of Sidon, and more specifically the market-place, at a crowded hour of the day, causing the death of five Lebanese civilians and injuring no less than fourteen. Severe damage to and destruction of property resulted from the shelling, which did not spare the City's ancient Church and Seat of the Maronite Archdiocese.

Though the city of Sidon is well beyond the "area of operation" of UNIFIL, the timing of the aggression does not seem to be wholly unrelated to the implementation of resolution 467 (1980). Indeed, that very day, the Commander-in-Chief of UNIFIL was in Beirut to discuss with my Government and the Lebanese Army's command the various ways and means that would be conducive to peace and security in the South and the gradual restoration of total Lebanese authority.

It has undoubtedly been noticed that, since resolution 467 was voted on 24 April 1980, a new pattern of aggression has developed, ceaselessly and relentlessly pursued, with sea and air support. Although some UNIFIL positions have not been spared, there was greater concentration of attacks at targets outside the "area of operation", from Tyre to the capital city of Beirut, with grave consequences, military, political, social and economic, that cannot yet be fully assessed.

The Council may want to examine this new situation at an appropriate time. As the present mandate of UNIFIL nears its conclusion, it becomes imperative to decide the measures that must be taken to enable the Force to fulfil its mission unhampered, and to see to it that the operative provisions of resolution 467 should not continue to be challenged and flouted.

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My Government will feel compelled to call for an urgent meeting of the Council if the situation should further deteriorate in a manner that renders resolution 467 and the previous resolutions unimplementable.

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

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
