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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 August 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I personally delivered this morning to the President of the Security Council regarding the latest Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter and enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/34/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 August 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President
of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter of 23 July 1979 (S/13464), I have the honour to draw your attention to the deteriorating situation in South Lebanon. Acts of aggression by Israel have been occurring almost daily, affecting the following Lebanese villages:

1. During the night of 24/25 July, the villages of Haddatha, Ayta ez-Zitt and Bra'sheet were subjected to heavy machine-gun firing and artillery shelling;
2. On 26 July, the Hasbani River basin and Hasbaya were shelled by Israeli artillery, and so were the villages of Rihan, Aishiyeh, Aramta, Daraya and Quttrani;
3. On 31 July, artillery fire was opened against Qlaya, Kawkaba Hills and Mazra'at Bèit Nawfal, as well as against the vicinity of Hasbaya;
4. Late during the night of 31 July/1 August, the villages of Arnoun, Yohmor, Upper Nabatiyeh, Eastern Duwayr, Kfar Rumman, Habboush and Nabatiyeh were similarly shelled;
5. On 1 August, Israeli gunners directed their fire against the area between the Hasbani River and Kawkaba;
6. On 2 August, the area of Hasbaya, Kawkaba, Burghoz and Qlaya were subjected to a heavy barrage of gun-fire, to give cover to a raiding party of Israeli troops, who undertook a massive motorized raid beyond the area of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which followed a route parallel to the Litani River, towards the heights of the village of Kawkaba;
7. Constant overflights of Lebanese territory are continuing, the last of which was over Beirut yesterday, Sunday.

These acts of aggression have resulted in the death and injury of many persons - all civilians. There was also extensive damage to property.

As in previous letters, I wish once more to protest very strongly against these unwarranted Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon.

A/34/401
S/13488
English
Annex
Page 2

All these attacks have been preceded, accompanied and followed by acts of harassment and defiant declarations against UNIFIL, which seem designed not only to erode further the credibility of UNIFIL, but also to make its whole presence appear ineffective and probably unnecessary. It is particularly disturbing that the most recent and most serious attack launched beyond UNIFIL lines, on 2 August, should have been timed to coincide with the leaving of the area of Mr. Brian Urquhart, Under-Secretary-General, after he had conducted a series of meetings to review the UNIFIL situation with Israeli as well as Lebanese leaders. Such a disturbing situation prompts my Government to ask what action the Security Council should envisage, particularly under your leadership. It is recalled here that your delegation sponsored Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which Israel has been incessantly challenging.

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

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
