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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 23 July 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter of 11 July 1979 (S/13452), I am under instructions from my Government to bring to your attention and the attention of the Security Council the continued acts of aggression committed by Israel against Lebanon inside and outside the area of operation of UNIFIL, and to protest in the strongest possible terms against such continued violation of the Charter of the United Nations, of the Armistice Agreement and of the resolutions of the Security Council.

The most recent and most serious such aggression took place yesterday, Sunday, 22 July, in the following manner:

1. At 1810 hours, an Israeli aircraft formation raided the towns of Al-Damour and Ma'ameh, on the road between Beirut and Sidon, six consecutive times. The raids lasted for about 35 minutes.
2. Israeli aircraft formations also raided the villages of Aqbiyah, Sarfand and Khayzaran, between Sidon and Tyre. Those raids continued until 1900 hours.
3. The raids took place in densely populated civilian areas on the main highway south of the capital, at a time of maximum civilian movement on Sunday. There was extensive material damage.

Casualties, all civilian, have not yet been fully determined. According to preliminary reports of yesterday evening, there were 8 killed, including 3 women and 1 child, and 19 wounded, all Lebanese civilians. At the time of writing, the final toll is still unknown, but unofficial reports speak of between 15 and 20 civilians killed.

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This ferocious and brutal attack by Israeli aircraft was totally unwarranted and no pretext was given for it. It comes at a time when intensive efforts are being deployed by all concerned to implement the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 450 (1979), whose objective is the cessation of all hostilities and the establishment of an area of peace in South Lebanon. It is needless to say that Israel's action, in defiance of the Security Council, further undermines such efforts and creates a context of insecurity within which it is becoming increasingly difficult for UNIFIL to operate efficiently.

I am, Your Excellency, under instructions from my Government to bring the matter to the attention of the Security Council, condemning these acts and protesting in the strongest possible terms. Every possible action must be taken immediately to put an end to a situation which is endangering peace and security.

I have the honour to request that this letter be 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
