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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 12 August 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters, I regret to inform you that Israel has continued its attacks against southern Lebanon in various areas, as shown by the following facts:

1. On Sunday, 9 August, the Israeli Air Force carried out an attack on the village of Soultaniyé, which resulted in casualties among the population and large-scale losses of property.
2. During the night of Sunday, 9 August/Monday, 10 August, areas to the east of Sidon were subjected to mortar shelling by the so-called "South Lebanon Army". The shelling lasted a number of hours.
3. On Monday, 10 August, four Israeli Cobra helicopters bombarded the village of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and the course of the Litani river from 4.50 p.m. until 6.15 p.m. They used heavy machine-guns and air-to-ground missiles, one of which hit a civilian Mercedes, killing one citizen and wounding two others. The Israeli leadership justified this crime by claiming that the car was "suspect". Israeli artillery participated by spraying hills, valleys and fields with incendiary bombs, which ignited fires in farmland and olive orchards in the area.

The Lebanese Government, as it once again condemns these practices, which are contrary to all international custom and law, draws the attention of the international community to the fact that Israeli policy in this field is aimed at

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creating exclusive zones where it is impossible for farmers to work their land. Such is the case in the villages of Yatar, Kafra, Jbaa, Arabsalim and Zaoutar and others.

One of the new-old manifestations of this Israeli policy is the repeated bombardment of UNIFIL positions, specifically, the Nepalese and Norwegian battalions, which has been justified by fallacious arguments.

The Lebanese Government, while condemning these terrorist and inhumane practices on the part of Israel, reaffirms its position that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the south and the repeated acts of aggression against the population and their property is creating an explosive situation which presents a threat to the security and safety of the population on both sides of the frontier and that compliance with the international will through the implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the deployment of UNIFIL forces up to the international frontier are the way to achieve peace and security for the region and its people.

The Lebanese Government calls upon the international community to endeavour to halt the Israeli practices immediately, because they daily result in more victims, destruction, losses and suffering for the population of southern Lebanon.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 39 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nouhad MAHMOUD
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
