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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my letter of 19 August 1980 (S/14114), I am instructed by my Government to bring to the attention of the Council Israel's continued acts of aggression against Lebanon, since their last combined air-infantry mini-invasion of Monday to Tuesday, 18-19 August 1980.

These acts of aggression acquire a particular importance in the light of the following:

1. Israeli official pronouncements from Prime Minister Begin, Chief of Staff Eitan, and others, "pledging" to continue the so-called "pre-emptive strikes" policy inside Lebanese territory, at positions of their own choice, and whenever Israel, "and Israel alone", deems it "necessary". Various sinister, and at times, colourful, expressions of this policy are so numerous and so widespread and have been given such publicity that they need not be quoted here.
2. While UNIFIL soldiers have been valiantly and gallantly holding their positions, and while the command of UNIFIL and particularly General Erskine, are doing their utmost to maintain and, when possible, restore peace in the area, the Israeli Army is doing everything possible to create a situation on the terrain which constitutes a threat to the very security of UNIFIL and a constant erosion of their presence and effectiveness.
3. Continued Israeli concentrations and continued action inside Lebanese territory, territorial waters, and air space, and the establishment of fixed military positions which have rendered the very concept of internationally-guaranteed frontiers highly fluid. It has also rendered the principal task of the United Nations observers extremely hazardous and near to impossible. This is not only a blatant violation of the Israeli-Lebanese Armistice Agreement, but of all elementary principles of international law and morality, let alone the challenge to the Charter and to United Nations action, decisions, and presence.
4. The near-to-total disruption of the very fabric of civil life in the area under attack by the systematic destruction not only of houses, but of the means of livelihood: forests, fields, crops, water resources, electricity, communications, etc. This has resulted in massive displacement of population, over and above the very important losses and casualties.

S/14120
English
Page 2

It has been difficult, in view of continued operations, to obtain an accurate description and statistics of such losses and casualties. Unofficial reports, reproduced in the international press, spoke of as many as 20 dead during the raids of Wednesday 20 August, which is an unusually high figure in a then almost deserted and relatively small area.

Annexed is a preliminary official report on acts of aggression and casualties, north of the area of operations of UNIFIL.

While protesting again in the strongest possible terms and calling for continued intervention by the appropriate United Nations organs and by all those who are in a position to do so, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, I request that this letter, and the annex, be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Recent Israeli aggression in South Lebanon

1. Wednesday 20 August 1980

- At 0600 hours, Israeli forces positioned near the village of Blatt and Khiam, inside Lebanon, and from positions inside Israel, shelled, with 155-mm field guns, the area of Nabatiyeh, Kfar Rumman, el-Aishiyeh. Israeli artillery was also pounding Tyre, el-Bass and Shawakeer. Firing continued until 0645 hours, and resulted in wounding one woman and destroying many houses.
- At 0720 hours, shelling was resumed and the area of Nabatiyeh, Habboush, Kfar Rumman, Shoukeer, Arnun, el-Aishiyeh, was continuously hit for five hours. Three persons were wounded at Nabatiyeh and one at Kfar Rumman. Sixteen houses were completely destroyed. At the same time Israeli heavy artillery shelled Tyre, ar-Rashidiyah Camp and other inhabited areas in the region. When firing ceased at 1420 hours, four persons were killed and two wounded. Further possible casualties are still undetermined, as the rubble of 12 demolished houses has not yet been cleared.
- From 1300 to 1345 hours, Israeli jets bombarded the Orphanage, near the village of Shoukeer, and the area around it. The raid resulted in one person being killed and four wounded. In the meantime, Israeli artillery was shelling the region of Hasbaya, Qilya and Yuhmur. As a result, one person was wounded, four houses were destroyed and extensive damage was caused to agricultural crops.
- From 1445 to 1005 hours, the Israeli Air Force raided the Castle at Arnun, the forest area at Ali-et-Taher, the Nabatiyeh refugee camp and the Bayyad quarter of Nabatiyeh. As a result, two persons were wounded.
- At 2000 hours, three shells hit the Youiya area causing material damage.
- At 2200 hours, an Israeli naval vessel was sighted off Damour, inside Lebanese territorial waters. Other Israeli vessels were also sighted off ar-Rashidiyah refugee camp and off Ras el-Ain, well inside Lebanese territorial waters. These naval vessels intruded inside Lebanon's territorial waters under cover of large helicopter formations.

2. Thursday 21 August 1980

- At 0900 hours, 50 shells fell on Arnun, Beaufort Castle, 18 others on Deir A'amis, and 5 on Haddatha. Yuhmur and Kfar-Tibnit were intermittently shelled until 1000 hours. Extensive material damage was thus caused.

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- At 1045 hours, artillery shelling of Nabatiyeh, Kfar-Tibnit, Mazra'at Ali-et-Taher and the Islamic Orphanage at Shoukeer resulted in the death of one woman and damage to 17 houses.
- At 1130 hours, 10 phosphorescent shells hit Aita el-Jabal causing extensive damage and a number of fires were thus started. Meanwhile, helicopter formations were overflying the area between Merjuyoun and Naqoura.
- At 1345 hours, the electric generator, at the crossroad of Kfar Rumman and Nabatiyeh was shelled, plunging the whole area in darkness. Another 130-mm shell hit and damaged the water storage facility, disrupting the water supply to the villages in the area.
- At 1255 hours, 155-mm shells fell on Yater, Haris, Aita ez-Zitt; one person was injured.
- At 1310 hours, intermittent artillery shelling of Nabatiyeh, Arnun, Yuhmur, was resumed, causing material damage in the now evacuated villages.
- At 2015 hours, Israeli naval vessels and helicopters resumed action inside Lebanese territorial waters and air space off Tyre.