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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform
Your Excellency of the following.

Since 05:00 hours on 22 January 1979, the town of Nabatiyeh and neighbouring villages have been subjected to sporadic artillery shelling. By 08:30 hours, shelling intensified and ranged from Nabatiyeh to Choukine, Kfar Rumman, Arnoun - Myfadoun - al-Jarmaq and Al-Aichieh. This continued for one hour. At 10:00 hours, Israeli war-planes violated Lebanese air space and flew over the area. Half an hour later artillery shelling resumed, and by 18:00 hours it was continuing.

As a result, one person was killed and four were injured. There was enormous damage to property.

The Lebanese Government wishes to protest vigorously against these acts of aggression. Coming just after the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate, they are designed to exacerbate tensions and further hamper UNIFIL's deployment all over its area of operation. Such aggression and escalation are in flagrant violation of international law, of the Charter of the United Nations and the Lebanese-Israeli Armistice Agreement.

You are kindly requested to have this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative