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LETTER DATED 24 OCTOBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

While the Security Council, responding to the international community's concern, is actively engaged in seeking a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian war, Israel is further escalating its acts of aggression in a manner that endangers world peace and security, and warrants immediate attention by the Council.

Using American sophisticated aircraft, in a manner incompatible with conditions of purchase, let alone international law, Israel has been constantly overflying Lebanon and bombarding towns and villages, causing heavy destruction and casualties. Israeli seacraft has been shelling coastal areas, particularly the city of Tyre, and field artillery has relentlessly bombarded objectives inside and beyond the area of operations of UNIFIL.

Heedless of our previous protests to the Security Council and of international reaction, the Israeli army has been consolidating its positions inside the Lebanese international border and engaging in offensive acts, the most recent of which was the blowing up of houses and kidnapping of civilians in the village of Aita-el-Jabal (Aita-el-Zott) in the night of 22/23 October.

I am instructed by my Government to present this complaint to the Council and protest in the strongest possible terms. The Council will undoubtedly share our concern that if Israel is allowed to pursue its so-called "policy of pre-emptive strikes", a new dimension might be added to the present Middle East crisis in a manner that may be of the utmost gravity to all concerned.

The Lebanese Government, mindful of the Council's present preoccupations and agenda, brings the matter to your urgent attention and requests that the Council be seized of it, leaving it entirely to you and the members to decide on what measures must be taken to ensure the implementation of the pertinent resolutions, including the enforcement of the mandate of UNIFIL and respect for the General Armistice Agreement.

I would be grateful, Mr. President, if you will have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council under the item "The situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative