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LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council had barely finished voting on resolution 483 (1980), when Israel began launching a major combined operation by air, land and sea against Lebanese villages and towns well inside the internationally recognized Lebanese boundaries and inside and beyond the area of operation of UNIFIL.

I am under instructions from my Government to protest in the strongest possible terms this new Israeli blatant aggression which we can only read as further defiance of the international community's determination to establish peace in the Lebanon, to ensure the success of UNIFIL and, more particularly, to preserve the safety and security of both Lebanese citizens and the members of the international Force.

This latest Israeli attack enhances our plea for the urgent measures that the Security Council has requested to implement expeditiously the pertinent resolutions and the General Armistice Agreement which should lead to total cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of Israeli forces and the respect of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

Annexed to this letter is a detailed description of some of the events that took place on 17, 18 and 19 December 1980 which have resulted in seven persons killed and a large number of wounded, with the destruction of houses and property, particularly in the villages of Bra'sheet, Aishiyeh, Sidon and the Tyre area.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Recent Israeli aggressions in south Lebanon

During the night of 17/18 December instant, at 2245 hours, an Israeli force of about 300 troops entered Bra'sheet and other villages. Houses were searched and automatic weapons were fired at people therein, killing three persons and wounding five. The invaders demolished one house and damaged four others. The troops also attacked the villages of Majdel Silm, Shaqra, Majdel Zoun and Yatter, destroying a total of eight houses.

During the raid, the village of Mazra'at Buyut es-Sayed, in the district of Tyre, was heavily shelled, with enormous damage to property resulting.

One day later, in the night of 18/19 December instant, at 2240 hours, Israeli helicopters overflew the Tyre area, while Israeli gunboats were cruising inside Lebanese territorial waters just off the Tyre coastline.

At 2320 hours, an infantry battalion, accompanied by helicopters, attacked the villages of Aishiyeh, al-Jurmuq, Al-Mahmoudiyeh and al-Dimashqiyeh, where the aggressors clashed with armed elements. The Israeli battalion then withdrew at 0435 hours on 19 December 1980.

This morning, at 0325 hours, Israeli gunners shelled the city of Sidon for 30 minutes.

Al-Jurmuq and al-Aishiyeh have been subjected to continuous shelling, and preliminary reports speak of three persons killed and four wounded. Extensive jet and helicopter activity in the Nabatiyeh and Khardali Brige areas was noticed. The Hasbaya and Ibl as-Saqi regions were also shelled.
