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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

While negotiations are going on to hold a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission, in implementation of recent Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, a sudden resurgence of violence is taking place in the Lebanese border area which threatens to further complicate an already dangerous situation.

I am instructed by my Government to report to the Council and protest the following acts of aggression:

1 August 1980

At 0030 hours, an Israeli commando unit launched two naval operations on the Lebanese coast north of the area of operation of UNIFIL. It landed at Damour and Saadiyyat and attacked a privately owned beach. A civilian boat was destroyed, three persons were wounded and a truck transporting cattle was hit. Before withdrawing, the commando force laid some mines on the coast of Damour.

2 August 1980

At 1600 hours, Israeli artillery based in the village of Khiam, supported by local militias, bombarded the vicinity of Hasbayyah, using 82-mm guns which caused extensive material damage to civilian property. Simultaneously, Israeli air force was overflying the whole area of operation of UNIFIL in the south and, particularly, the sites being bombarded.

Later, at 2320 hours a number of Israeli naval vessels cruised inside Lebanese territorial waters opposite Ras el-Ain and Rashidiyyah in the Tyre area.

3 August 1980

At 0930 hours, Israeli forces, supported by local militias, bombarded with heavy artillery the western and central area. Five phosphorescent bombs hit Bourj esh-Shemali, wounding two civilians and destroying three vehicles. A number of houses were severely damaged. Two 130-mm shells fired from Marwahhin fell also in the vicinity of Bourj esh-Shemali.

Two 155-mm shells fell in the forest surrounding the village of Juwayyah, and five phosphorescent shells fired from a 175-mm gun fell in the fields of the village of Hadatha, causing substantial material damage.

Forty 130-mm and 175-mm shells were fired at the coast of Rashidiyyah, south of Tyre, wounding two civilians and causing serious damage to a number of houses.

Thirty mortar shells and six phosphorescent shells fell on the village of Blat, wounding one civilian and destroying and burning a number of houses. Three shells hit the village of Tibnin, causing important fires and destroying a number of houses.

One shell fell in the valley between Sultaniyeh and Tibnin, also causing fires.

Three artillery shells fell in the vicinity of the village of Juwayyah.

At 2010 hours, the electric power station of Sultaniyeh was severely hit by artillery.

At 2210 hours, Israeli helicopters overflew the area of Abul-Aswad, Qasmiyeh and Adloun, dropping flare bombs.

4 August 1980

At 1200 hours, four phosphorescent shells fell between Rashidiyyah and Shawakir (in the vicinity of Tyre), and one shell hit a disaffected ship in the Tyre harbour.

At 1300 hours, the area extending from Shwaitiyyah to Ramadiyyah, Shwakir and Ras el-Ain was heavily bombarded, causing extensive material damage.

Finally, at 2200 hours, Israeli naval vessels cruised inside Lebanese territorial waters between Tyre and Adloun.

Mr. President,

In addition to the extensive shelling here reported, it is to be noted that a number of houses in the area of Yarin were occupied on 2 August 1980 and transformed into military positions for training and telecommunications, while Israeli concentrations were taking place in the village of Marwahhin and near el-Birki.

In this same vein, Israeli forces, supported by the militias, established, on 3 August 1980, four artillery positions in Mazra'at Deir Hanna and in the vicinity of el-Hamra bridge. Night patrols were organized between Naqoura, Aita el-Shaeb and Ramiyeh. Later, those patrols continued in the day-time as well.

This situation caused UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army detachment in Kawkaba to declare a state of alert. UNIFIL patrols have had to be intensified on the fringes of the area of operation, and preventive measures have been taken to forestall any penetration of UNIFIL-held positions.

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The situation has continued to be very tense and culminated in the kidnapping, on 5 August 1980, of a Dutch officer of UNIFIL and four soldiers, who were only released after intensive efforts by the UNIFIL Command.

It is said that all this is in reprisal for the death of two villagers from Dibel, which death was caused by land mines.

I am instructed by my Government to request that this letter be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
