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Item 33 of the preliminary list\*  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 May 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the serious situation currently existing in Lebanon.

The Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has asked me to express its deep concern over the painful events that continue to occur in Lebanon as the result of a crisis which began several years ago.

My Government has constantly expressed its deep concern at the seriousness of the situation and has on previous occasions tried to draw the attention of the international community to these tragic events dealing such a hard blow at a nation which, by virtue of its social development and democracy, has earned the admiration of the world.

In view of the continual escalation of the conflict in Lebanon, which could bring about the actual disappearance of a civilized and developed republic and the sacrifice of its citizens, we must once more, in the name of brotherhood, appeal to the international community and to the United Nations in particular, to assume responsibility for embarking on an immediate search for peaceful solutions to that country's plight and for finding appropriate ways to restore peace and tranquillity, both internal and external, to Lebanon.

It is the view of my Government that, if such solutions are to be truly just and not give rise to future conflicts, they must be based on respect for the territorial integrity of Lebanon and the right of its people to decide its own destiny.

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I wish to stress the fundamentally humanitarian nature of my Government's concern, which is born of its natural desire to safeguard one of the fundamental human rights - indeed the most important one to us - namely, the right to life, of which the people of Lebanon are being deprived.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge Azar GOMEZ  
Minister  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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