

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/310
S/14507
8 June 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-sixth session
Item 33 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 5 June 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Arab Group for the current month, I wish to draw Your Excellency's urgent attention to the recent Israeli attacks against the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon, which resulted in the death of many innocent civilians.

In this connexion, I have the honour to request that the attached letters addressed to you by the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations (annexes I and II) be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohsin A. ALAINI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/36/50.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 2 June 1981 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by Chairman Yasser Arafat to bring the following to your immediate attention. On the 26 May 1981, Israeli forces were continuing their shelling of Nabatiyeh, Aishiyeh and the Beaufort Castle areas of southern Lebanon. This shelling had been going on continuously during the course of that week. Simultaneously, there was a significant and noticeable increase in Israeli aerial activity over Beirut and southern Lebanon.

27 May 1981 began with the saturation bombing by Israeli forces of the Damour-Naameh area (south of Beirut) along the coastal road. It is a well known fact that since 1976 Damour has been refuge to the survivors of the Tal Al-Zaatar refugee camp where 4,000 men, women and children were murdered. Damour has been bombed and shelled repeatedly by the Israeli air-force and navy.

Israeli attacks against the civilian population of southern Lebanon entered an intensified phase on 28 May 1981. Israel's air, land and amphibious forces participated in a series of attacks orchestrated at targets ranging from Damour and Naameh (south of Beirut) to Nabatiyeh and the surrounding region in the south.

The most devastating attack was directed against the Damour Naamen area. For over three hours twelve U.S. made F-4 phantoms and F-15's were

used in successive air strikes in which sixty 1,000 pound bombs and heavy rockets were dropped on the civilian population. Extensive damage was done to homes and roads in the region. The casualty toll was 8 killed and 14 wounded. Eye-witness reports described the fighter-planes as diving repeatedly to attack the two towns. Huge pillars of smoke could be seen rising in the aftermath of the attacks.

At the same time as the air attacks, Israeli artillery pounded the Aishiya-Jarmaq-Dimashqiya region for five hours. Several civilians were seriously wounded when a shell fell on the city of Sidon.

At midnight, Israeli amphibious forces landed near Naameh and fired a rocket at a passing civilian truck killing its two occupants, and wounding several other civilians who were passing in a car.

On 2 June 1981, at 12:45 p.m. Israeli fighter-planes attacked the Abu Al-Aswad refugee camp. A formation of six U.S. made phantoms attacked the camp for 45 minutes. There are six known civilian casualties. Several houses were totally destroyed and extensive material damage was inflicted on the orchards in the surrounding areas. Later in the afternoon Israeli forces started shelling Cala'a Horsh El-Nabi, Taher and the Jarmaq region.

This was the fifth air attack in a month in addition to the daily artillery bombardments, helicopter and jet over-flights, and numerous amphibious landing attempts. During this period 120 people have been killed and over 300 wounded in these savage and mindless attacks.

It is without doubt that Israel has launched a new phase in its campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people. Not only is this escalation linked to the on-going Israeli election campaign and Begin's vying for the votes of the hard-line Zionists, but it is directly and inextricably linked to the 'hot pursuit' signal sanctioned by the U.S. government.

Again Palestinian and Lebanese civilians are paying the price for U.S. policy and Zionist expansionist aspirations in the region. It will be unfair of the international community and the United States in particular to expect us to exercise further self-restraint and patience when our people are being systematically murdered. There is a limit to our patience. Chairman Arafat wishes to assert that the resumption of this campaign of intimidation and terror can and will only lead to an exacerbation of the already volatile situation; and given the violent and racist aims of the Zionist entity, the Palestine Liberation Organization will take all necessary measures to protect and safeguard the lives of the Palestinian people.

(Signed)

Zuhdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

ANNEX II

Letter dated 3 June 1981 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

*Pursuant to our letter of 2 June 1981, I am further instructed by
Chairman Yasser Arafat to bring the following to your immediate attention.*

*While appeals have been made calling for further self-restraint Israeli
gun-boats last night bombarded the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr Al-Bared
in north Lebanon for over an hour. While no casualties are as yet reported,
there is extensive material damage to homes.*

*The last attack by Israeli against Nahr Al-Bared from the sea was in
April 1979. Last night's attack came amid Israel's continuing and escalating
artillery bombardment of south Lebanon and following two intensive air
strikes in the last six days.*

*As conveyed to you yesterday, Chairman Arafat wishes to reiterate
that there is a limit to our patience, and given the racist and violent aims
of the Zionist entity, the Palestine Liberation Organization will take all
necessary measures to protect and safeguard the lives of the Palestinian
people.*

(Signed) Zuhdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
