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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the latest acts of aggression perpetrated by Israel against Lebanon.

On 20 December 1978 at 1600 hours, eight Israeli aircraft raided positions inside Lebanon extending from Adloun in the North to Bourj esh-Shimaly in the South. The attack continued for half an hour during which the planes dropped cluster bombs, rockets and strafed the area with heavy machine-guns. At the same time Israeli vessels were sighted off the Tyrian coast-line. The vessels withdrew as soon as the air attack was terminated.

As a result of this raid three persons were killed, sixteen wounded and some houses were destroyed or damaged.

On 21 December 1978, at 0800 hours, Israeli artillery shelled the Lebanese army unit stationed at Kawkaba. It also shelled the Hasbani river basin and the surrounding areas. As a result of this shelling, one person was killed and four were wounded, all of whom were Lebanese civilians.

At 1100 hours, the sector of "Koley'a-Zoley'a-Arnoun-Nabatiyeh" was being shelled and Israeli aircraft were overflying the area. The extent of the damage was not immediately available.

The Lebanese Government wishes to lodge a vigorous protest against these unprovoked and unwarranted attacks on Lebanon. They constitute a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, international law and the Armistice Agreement of 1949 between Lebanon and Israel.

We also deplore that this attack should have been launched while the Security Council, the Secretary-General, and UNIFIL are all engaged in stabilizing the situation in South Lebanon with a view to fully implementing resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) aimed at establishing a zone of peace in the area.

The unwarranted attacks by Israel, viewed in this perspective, and in the light of the Security Council's debates on 8 December 1978, can only be understood as a further attempt at obstructing the efforts for peace which the United Nations is engaged in pursuing.

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The Lebanese Government reserves the right to call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, should that become necessary.

You are kindly requested to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUÉNI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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