

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12604
16 March 1978
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The President of the Security Council has received the attached letter dated 16 March 1978 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Letter dated 16 March 1978 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the communications I have received relating to the current situation in Lebanon. The texts not previously circulated, which include letters from Governments and from organizations, are attached.

In these communications several comments and suggestions have been made about action by the Secretary-General and the Security Council. I wish to assure the Council that I stand ready to lend any assistance I can in helping to overcome the present difficulties. I have already been in touch with a number of the representatives most directly concerned, and my good offices continue to be available.

I have already expressed my deep concern about the recent developments in the area, the resulting loss of innocent civilian lives, and the increased threat to international peace and security. We have seen in these events a recurrence of the cycle of violence, of provocation and response which has for so long brought tragedy to so many people. Every effort must clearly be made to put an end to the current crisis. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that until a comprehensive peace settlement is reached, which meets the legitimate aspirations of all the Governments and peoples of the area, this cycle is likely to continue.

Whether in the immediate Lebanese context, or in the wider context of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, which is a priority objective as far as international peace and security is concerned, I wish to express my readiness to help in any possible way. I have drawn the attention of the Council to the communications and expressed my concern because of the implications of current developments in the Middle East for the future of world peace.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM

/...

Annex I

Note verbale dated 15 March 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the message of a telegram addressed to His Excellency from His Excellency Dr. Ali A. Al-Treiki, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The telegram reads:

"The continuation of the racist Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples confirms the expansionist and racist nature of the Zionist entity, which is based on usurpation and the shedding of innocent blood.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya while condemning this flagrant aggression which threatens the peace and security of the area and the whole world, and constitutes a heinous violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirms its stand with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their plight.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in requesting Your Excellency to take the appropriate measures for stopping this atrocious aggression expresses its support for your efforts in maintaining international peace and security. Please accept our highest consideration."

Annex II

Note verbale dated 15 March 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him herewith the text of the statement delivered by H.E. the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic to the ambassadors of States members of the Security Council accredited to Damascus on 15 March 1978, following the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and also the statement made by the military spokesman of the deterrent forces on the same day.

/...

Enclosure to annex II

The following is the text of the statement delivered by H.E. the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic to the ambassadors of States members of the Security Council accredited to Damascus on 15 March:

"Since midnight of 14-15 March Israel has been carrying out widespread aggression against Lebanon, using various kinds of weapons. The military operations are still continuing, and in the course thereof the forces of aggression are destroying Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps and killing hundreds of innocent citizens. Israel claims that it is waging these attacks in retaliation for the fedayeen operation carried out on 11 March in Palestine.

"In carrying out this aggressive attack on Lebanon, Israel knows quite well that those who carried out the operation of 11 March did not proceed from southern Lebanon, and it is only utilizing this argument in order to violate the sovereignty of Lebanon, which is a Member of the United Nations, to encroach on the inviolability and integrity of its territory, to kill hundreds of innocent individuals and to destroy Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps. These acts of aggression constitute a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter, the principles of international law and humane precepts. This action on the part of Israel is clear proof of Israel's determination to persist in its aggression, its violation of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations and its lack of will for peace.

"In view of the foregoing, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is deeply concerned at events in southern Lebanon and calls on States members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and to intervene promptly to halt the aggression against a State Member of the United Nations and take the immediate necessary steps for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory."

/...

Annex III

Letter dated 14 March 1978 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, I should like to transmit the following:

"The Palestine Liberation Organization conveys to the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, its best greetings and profound respect and would like to draw His Excellency's attention to the serious decision taken by the Israeli Knesset on March 13, and to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's statement, as well as the statements by other officials, which contained open, public, and official threats to exterminate the P.L.O. and its representatives abroad.

The P.L.O. would like to call Your Excellency's attention to the intensive Israeli military concentrations along Lebanon's southern frontiers, including its land, naval, and air forces.

All this represents a blatant departure from the content and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, by which all U.N. member-states abide, and a dangerous provocation against the P.L.O. and the Palestinian people. But it also necessarily constitutes a serious threat to peace in the Middle East and the entire world.

The P.L.O. avails itself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency its deep respect and great appreciation."

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

/...

Annex IV

Letter dated 15 March 1978 from the Permanent Observer of the
League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Israeli forces launched an aggression last night against an Arab country, a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. This aggression took the form of actual war on the part of Israel using land, sea, and air forces.

The Israeli Defense Minister declared today that the Israeli forces will continue its occupation of Southern Lebanon in order to maintain discipline, an excuse previously claimed by colonizing countries to occupy the land of others.

This Israeli aggression led to the killing of a great number of Lebanese civilians. Moreover, it is aimed at exterminating the Palestinian people whose land has already been usurped by Israel and who have been forced out of their homeland to live in refuge in Lebanon.

This Israeli aggression and the occupation of new Arab territories creates serious repercussions, the threat of which is not merely limited to the region of the Middle East.

The situation requires your immediate intervention in your capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations to put an end to Israeli aggression and secure immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese lands.

(Signed) Mahmoud RIAD

Annex V

Letter dated 15 March 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a message from Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Member of the Revolutionary Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communication issued as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Nacereddine HAFFAD
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations

/...

Enclosure to annex V

I should like to draw your attention to the grave situation resulting from the recent Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon.

Once again, Lebanon, another Arab country of the Near East, is the target of deliberate, and in particular premeditated, aggression by Israel, which, practising confusion, has wilfully interpreted the traditional messages of condolences received from some capitals following the recent incidents at Tel Aviv as expressions of encouragement or even support from the international community for aggression.

There is every indication that the time needed for aggressive military preparations was knowingly exploited in order to prepare world opinion psychologically for the commission of this latest outrage.

Perhaps more than anyone else, you will have been alarmed at the latest developments in the Near East and concerned about the consequences which might ensue, not only for the region but for international peace and security.

The position which we legitimately expect the Secretary-General of the United Nations to express should, in addition to condemning the State terrorism which constitutes Israel's basic doctrine, be such as to remind everyone that there is no possibility of peace in that part of the world without strict implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly those concerning Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

I request you, Sir, to find in this message an assurance of our firm support for any action you may wish to take to that end, and an expression of our absolute solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and with the brother people of Lebanon in the latest trial it is undergoing to safeguard its national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(Signed) Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA
Member of the Revolutionary Council
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
