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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-third session  
Items 30 and 31 of the preliminary list\*  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 17 March 1978 from the Permanent  
Representative of Sri Lanka to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué issued today by the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 30 and 31 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) B. J. FERNANDO  
Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to  
the United Nations and Chairman of the  
Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned  
Countries

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\* A/33/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué issued on 17 March 1978 by the Co-ordinating Bureau  
of Non-Aligned Countries

1. The Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries met in emergency session on 17 March 1978 to consider the Israeli invasion of Lebanon by land, sea and air, which commenced at midnight on 14/15 March 1978.
2. The Co-ordinating Bureau unanimously condemned this latest act of blatant aggression by Israel against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, as well as its expansionist policy. The aggression has caused a considerable number of deaths in Lebanese territory and enormous damage to property, as well as large-scale refugee migrations from the southern Lebanese region.
3. The Co-ordinating Bureau considers that the latest brutal armed Israeli attack also aims at bringing into jeopardy the very existence of the Palestinian people who live in the territory of Lebanon and at eliminating the Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organization as one of the key factors in the settlement of the question of Palestine and the conflict in the Middle East.
4. The position that has arisen further aggravates the explosive situation in the region and constitutes an immediate and direct threat to international peace and security, requiring urgent action by the international community.
5. The invasion complicates immeasurably and retards progress towards the solution of the Middle East problem as a whole and will have severe repercussions on all efforts to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East question. The Co-ordinating Bureau reaffirmed that a solution of the Middle East question is possible only by a recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and an independent sovereign State of their own in Palestine, the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied by it since June 1967 and the strict implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.
6. The Co-ordinating Bureau expressed its solidarity with the Lebanese people and fully supported the complaint made by Lebanon to the Security Council regarding the invasion of its territory by Israel. The Bureau further expressed its full support for all efforts by Lebanon to secure the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invader and to re-establish its sovereignty and conditions of peace and stability in southern Lebanon and in the country as a whole.
7. The Co-ordinating Bureau reiterated its unequivocal support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at this critical period in their just struggle.
8. The Co-ordinating Bureau calls upon all non-aligned countries to condemn this new aggression of Israel and to demonstrate their active solidarity with the Arab peoples confronting the aggression, in particular with the Lebanese people and the Palestinian people.

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