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Items 30 and 31 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 20 March 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a statement dated 18 March 1978 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic on the question of Israel's latest aggression against Lebanon.

I request you to circulate the text of this statement as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 30 and 31 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) T. PUNTSAGNOROV
Permanent Representative of
Mongolia to the United Nations

* A/33/50.

ANNEX

Statement dated 18 March 1978 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Mongolian People's Republic

As is known, large Israeli forces, supported by concentrated air raids and artillery fire, recently invaded the territory of Lebanon and thus commenced what is in effect the direct occupation of the southern part of that sovereign State Member of the United Nations. The victims of that open aggression are above all the peaceful inhabitants, defenceless old men, women and children and Palestinian refugees who were driven from their homes by the Israeli occupying forces and found shelter in neighbouring Lebanon.

The latest armed invasion of Lebanon by Israel testifies to the fact that Israeli military circles are becoming ever more recklessly adventurist in their annexationist policy.

Israel is attempting to seize additional Arab lands and is pursuing the unattainable goal of suppressing the Palestinian resistance movement and the national patriotic forces of Lebanon. Inspired by international imperialism and zionism, on the one hand, and encouraged by Arab reactionary forces, on the other, the Israeli authorities are by their actions posing a threat to international peace and security in that area.

In their aggressive aspirations, the Israeli leaders have reached the point where they allow themselves to interfere flagrantly in the internal affairs of sovereign States, demanding that they refuse to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine.

In escalating its open aggression against independent States in the Middle East, Israel is flouting generally recognized rules of international law and is creating yet further obstacles to the peaceful settlement of the Middle East question.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Mongolian people, together with all progressive forces in the world, strongly condemn Israel's latest aggression against Lebanon and demand the immediate cessation of hostilities and the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

The Mongolian people and their Government express their full support for and solidarity with the Arab peoples in their just struggle for the elimination of the consequences of Israeli aggression, for the establishment of a lasting peace in the Middle East and for the safeguarding of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to establish their own State.

They continue to be in favour of the earliest possible convening of the Geneva Peace Conference, with the participation of all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.
