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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

At midnight on 14/15 March, massive Israeli troops crossed into Lebanon along the Lebanese frontiers from several axes. The first was from Naqoura towards the village of Izziyah. The second axis was in the central sector, where Israeli troops reached the Tibnin heights. The third was on the heights of Rachayya al-Fukhar - Blatt - near Marjoyoun.

In addition to this naked aggression against Lebanese territory, Israeli patrol vessels penetrated Lebanese territorial waters along the coastline from Tyre to Sidon.

Furthermore, Israeli warplanes continue to fly in Lebanese air space and bombard the area.

An undetermined number of Lebanese citizens were killed, notably in Tyre, and enormous damage was caused to property. Consequently, large numbers of our people are leaving the south of Lebanon and going towards the north.

The Lebanese Government, while it vehemently deplores this aggression and protests strongly against it, wishes to make the following clarifications:

First, Lebanon had no connexion with the commando operation on the road between Haifa and Tel Aviv or with any other commando operation.

Secondly, it is a well known fact that Lebanon is not responsible for the presence of Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon in the present circumstances. The Lebanese Government has exerted tremendous efforts with the Palestinians and the Arab States in order to keep matters under control. However, Israeli objections regarding the entry of the Arab Deterrent Forces to the south have prevented the accomplishment of Lebanon's desire to bring the border area under control.

Thirdly, the only solution to the problem lies in putting an end to Israeli aggression and in Israel's withdrawing its forces from Lebanon so that the Lebanese authorities can exercise their functions fully.

The Lebanese Government wishes to inform Your Excellency that it reserves its right to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council, and requests you kindly to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUÉNI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
