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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 July 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith five letters from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations (annexes I to V).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for them to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Taieb SLIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/36/150.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 12 July 1981 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by Chairman Yasser Arafat to inform you that at 1630 hrs today, Israeli phantoms, mirages and F15's attacked the coastal town of Damour and the neighbouring villages of Naameh and Karet Al-Naameh, as well as Deir Al-Zahrani on the Sidon-Nabatiyeh road. The raid lasted for over 90 minutes and involved approximately 24 planes. Known casualties at this time are two women dead and 12 civilians wounded. The Admiral refrigerator factory in Naameh was severely bombed, and it is feared that several bodies may be found under the rubble during rescue operations. Inhabitants of the region take refuge in the factory during Israeli air raids. Additionally, the tile factory in Damour was also severely bombed.

Today's attack marked the fourth time that Israeli planes have attacked the Damour region since March, and the 12th Israeli raid on Lebanon during the same period in which over 65 civilians have been killed and more than 100 seriously wounded.

Today's raid was preceded on Friday by an air attack on Habboush, on the Sidon-Nabatiyeh road and Al-Wadi Al-Akhdar, north-east of Nabatiyeh. The air raid lasted for over an hour and was accompanied by heavy artillery bombardment of roads in south Lebanon.

These raids are the clearest evidence that there is no possibility of the Israeli war machine letting up on its campaign for the total elimination of the Palestinian people, and for the liquidation of the joint forces of the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

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As was expressed to Mr. Brian Urquhart, Chairman Yasser Arafat wishes to express his gravest concern and strongest protest. He also wishes to reiterate that there is a limit to our patience, and given the racist and violent aims of the Zionist entity, the Palestine Liberation Organization will take all necessary measures to protect and safeguard the lives of the Palestinian people.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

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ANNEX II

Letter dated 15 July 1981, 3.00 p.m. New York time, from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have just been asked by Chairman Yasser Arafat to inform you that Israeli forces have shelled the following areas: Hasbani, Hasbaiya, Sidon, Wadi Al-Akhdar, Habboush, Kafer Roumane, Nabatiyeh, Arab-Salim, Ras Al-Ein, Maliyea and Rashidiyeh. These areas were selectively and maliciously shelled at approximately 1800 hours when Muslims would be gathering to break the Ramadan fast. I would bring to your attention that this has been an aggressive pattern followed by the Israelis during the week. It is also a serious violation of Muslim religious rites.

Details of casualties have not been reported yet.

As was stated by Chairman Yasser Arafat in our letter of 12 July 1981, that there is a limit to our patience, I would inform you that Nahariyah, Marjayoun, Metullah, Qlaiaa and Qiryat Shemona were the targets of our rockets after the unchecked and barbarous Israeli shelling, and pursuant to our contacts with you on Sunday, which proved to be of no avail.

I am also instructed to inform you that the shelling is continuing at this time. Israeli fighter-planes and helicopters are circling the areas. Naval and air activity is reported in the Sidon area.

Immediate efforts should be undertaken to bring an end to these criminal Israeli activities, particularly since they fall within and violate the area of operation of UNIFIL, albeit with sophisticated weaponry.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed) Zehdi Labi TERZI
Permanent Observer

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Concomittant to our letter we are submitting the following information:

| | |
|---------|---|
| 1740hrs | <i>intensive shelling of Nabatiyeh and Arab Salim</i> |
| 1805hrs | <i>intensive shelling of Ras Al-Ain, Rashidiyeh and Kana Junction</i> |
| 1825hrs | <i>intensive shelling of Sidon</i> |
| 1830hrs | <i>concentrated shelling of Ras Al-Ain, Nabatiyeh, Sidon, Kafer Roumane and Serba</i> |

As per our letter, counter rockets were targeted at enemy source of fire.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2040hrs | <i>naval vessels in vicinity of Sidon and Tyre</i> |
| 2110hrs | <i>Israeli airforce overflying and dropping flares over Rashidiyeh, Ras Al- Ain, Nabatiyeh and Arab Salim. Naval vessels still in vicinity of Sidon and Tyre</i> |

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apartment blocks which were destroyed by the savage Israeli bombings. Those families which tried fleeing to safety from the collapsing buildings found themselves in the midst of exploding bombs and rockets, as did little children who were playing in the streets of Beirut at the time of the attack.

Chairman Arafat wants to make it unequivocally clear, that the misogynist Menachem Begin, and President Reagan and his government are fully responsible and therefore will have to bear the consequences for these savage and inhuman attacks.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

ANNEX V

Letter dated 17 July 1981, 10.00 a.m. New York time, from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of Chairman Yasser Arafat I am asked to bring the following to your most urgent attention.

At 0100hrs Beirut local time, Sidon was heavily bombed. The hospital Jamal Kaur was hit. 15 casualties are reported.

At 0120hrs Ain Al-Hilweh camp was bombed again. Two Israeli destroyers were shelling the area between Tyre and Sidon.

At 0905hrs shelling resumed on Zahrani, Jarmaq, Nabatiyeh and Habboush bridge.

At 1030hrs in one of the most savage and brutal attacks ever on Lebanon, Israeli planes began repeated attacks on the heavily populated west Beirut districts of Fakhani, Tariq Al-Jadida, Ramlet Al-Beida, Jnah and Bir Hassan. The Arab University's Schools of Engineering and Communications were bombed, as well as the Mosque of Iman Ali near the Arab University. The Al-Ifran School was also severely hit.

The raid lasted for over an hour. At this time preliminary casualty figures are 87 killed and 479 wounded. I would repeat these are preliminary figures. Rescue operations are continuing in their desperate attempt to save entire families buried under the ruins of

ANNEX IV

Letter dated 16 July 1981 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter of 16 July 1981, I am instructed by Chairman Arafat to inform you that the Israeli air force has persisted in bombing Palestinian refugee camps and other civilian areas in South Lebanon, as shown below.

July 16: Israeli air strikes and concentrated bombings

hours:

| | |
|-------|---|
| 14:25 | Damour (air strike) |
| 16:00 | Wadi Akhdar, Arab Salim, Jarmaq (air strikes) Ain El Helweh refugee camp (air strikes) Zahrani and Habboush bridges (air strikes) |
| 16:50 | Ein El Helweh refugee camp (air strikes) |
| 17:10 | Wadi El Akhdar (concentrated bombing) |
| 17:30 | Kasmiyah bridge (air strike) |
| 17:35 | Zahrani and Habboush bridges (air strike) |
| 17:40 | Habboush bridge and Deir Zahrani (air strike) |
| 17:43 | Qala'a (Beaufort) and Zahrani and Habboush bridges (air strikes) |

I am asked to reiterate that immediate efforts should be undertaken by the United Nations to bring an end to the criminal Israeli activities.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer

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ANNEX III

Letter dated 16 July 1981 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter of 16 July 1981, I am asked by Chairman Yasser Arafat to inform you of casualty figures. At least fifty people were killed or seriously wounded, most of them in the heavily populated Ain al-Hilweh camp near Sidon, in the barbaric Israeli air attacks. While informing you of these casualty figures, I would hasten to caution that these figures are at this time incomplete.

Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer