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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations dated 1 May 1979 contained in document S/13289 and I wish to state the following:

(1) The Security Council in its resolution 444 dated 19 January 1979, reiterated its conviction that the continuing situation in southern Lebanon constitutes a challenge to its authority and a defiance of its resolutions and deplored "the lack of co-operation particularly on Israel's part with UNIFIL's efforts to fully implement its mandate including Israel's assistance to irregular armed groups in southern Lebanon".

(2) The Secretary-General stated clearly in his report contained in document S/13258 dated 19 April 1979 that the Israeli authorities are responsible for perpetuating the tension in southern Lebanon with their defiance of Security Council resolution (paras. 2, 19 and 23) of the same report.

(3) It is clear that the expansionist Israel is determined to continue its policy of expansion and intervention. The letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel tries to divert the attention of the international community, to mislead world public opinion and further increase the tension in Lebanon through his distorted fabrication concerning the Syrian role in Lebanon.

(4) As I stated on 18 December 1978 before the Security Council as contained in document S/PV/2106, Syria is committed to one Lebanon, to the Lebanon which we have always been proud of, to the Lebanon that has always played and can indeed continue to play a significant role in the Arab world, the role of the cradle of Arab civilization and its openness to the world at large. Syria responded to an appeal by the Lebanese Government and its people, and we are more than ready to leave Lebanon. In fact, we are doing all we can to enable Lebanese authority once more to exercise their authority over their whole territories. The Syrian forces in Lebanon are part of the Arab Deterrent Force under the direct command of the Lebanese Government. The Lebanese Government has the full right to decide over the duration of the mission of the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon including the Syrian forces.

(5) The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic completely endorses the view of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 27 of the above mentioned report wherein His Excellency stated, "In this regard, the position of the Government of Israel will be crucial for efforts to achieve further progress in the coming months."

It is clear that the expansionist Israel does not consider at the present time any possible co-operation with UNIFIL to facilitate the implementation of its mandate.

I kindly request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hammoud EL-CHOUDI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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