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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1982 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 the Security Council of the serious situation developing as a result of Israel's escalation of the hostilities in Lebanon, particularly in and around the city of Beirut and the Bekaa Valley.

Indeed, Israel has been using the intermittent cease-fires, declared by resolutions 508 and 509 (1982), to conduct a real war of attrition, which is resulting in a systematic destruction of West Beirut and progressive advances on the terrain, let alone the increasing number of civilian casualties. More particularly, since Thursday, July 22, Israel has been launching and is continuing to launch until today incessant air, sea and land attacks on the heavily populated areas of West Beirut and its suburbs.

These raids have caused no less than 100 civilian dead and an uncounted number of wounded. Damage to property was extensive, and the number of casualties would have been much greater if growing numbers of civilians had not been forced to evacuate their homes and seek refuge in the centre of town.

Air raids were also conducted against the Bekaa Valley, including the historical city of Baalbek, in a manner that cannot be justified by whatever military targets are said to be there. A total of 182 casualties has been counted.

If this situation is allowed to continue, the cease-fire declared under Security Council resolutions and constantly reiterated will soon be null and void, and all chances of reaching any settlement will be definitively impaired. My Government protests the continued hostilities in the strongest possible terms and repeats its appeal for the unconditional and immediate implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In the event of non-compliance by Israel, my Government reserves its right to call for a meeting of the Security Council to seek practical ways and means under the Charter to ensure the implementation of these resolutions.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
