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Items 31 and 34 of the provisional agenda\*  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 4 August 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by TASS, of  
2 August 1982, entitled "Force Israel to stop its aggression".

I request you, Sir, to circulate the TASS statement as an official document of  
the General Assembly, under items 31 and 34 of the provisional agenda, and of the  
Security Council.

(Signed) R. OVINNIKOV

\* A/37/150.

Annex

TASS STATEMENT  
"FORCE ISRAEL TO STOP ITS AGGRESSION"

Israeli forces have begun a large-scale attack against besieged Western Beirut. The assault forces of the Israeli army - tanks, aircraft, artillery, warships - have been launched against the courageous defenders of the city. The number of victims among the peaceful population of the city is increasing, apartment blocks are being destroyed, even hospitals are being subjected to the criminal attack. Artillery fire is being directed at the areas where foreign embassies are located. The Israeli barbarians in Beirut are now committing veritable genocide with regard to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The destruction of the capital of Lebanon is the latest monstrous crime of the Israeli militarists, which is being committed with cynical disregard for the resolution recently adopted by the Security Council demanding that Israel immediately lift its blockade of Beirut.

In this connexion, the co-operation between Israel and the United States, which alone out of all the members of the Security Council did not support the demand to lift the blockade and thereby gave the ruling clique in Israel a free hand to storm the Lebanese capital, has once again been particularly clearly demonstrated. The aggressor built up its forces for this attack under the cover of the "peace-making" efforts of the United States Administration. All of these facts convincingly demonstrate that Washington, as well as Tel Aviv, bears the responsibility for this crime.

The criminal acts of the Israeli militarists in Lebanon, which are being carried out with the complicity of the United States, arouse indignation and anger throughout the world, sow new seeds of hatred and enmity in the Middle East, and deepen the gulf between Israel and the Arab Governments and peoples.

The conscience of mankind, of all who cannot remain indifferent to the grief and suffering of people, demands the immediate halting of the mass murders being committed by the savage aggressor on Lebanese soil. Israel, through its crimes, is in fact placing itself outside the international community, whose will and demands it blatantly and insolently defies.

The leading circles of the Soviet Union consider that it is no longer possible to postpone taking effective measures to halt the aggression. The Security Council must urgently consider and take with regard to the aggressor all the coercive measures provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

The aggression must be halted.

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