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LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find attached the texts of the declarations of the President of the French Republic and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France of 18 and 17 September.

I should be grateful if you would have the texts of these declarations circulated as an official document of the Security Council under the item "The situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Luc de La BARRE DE NANTEUIL

Annex I

Declaration made on 18 September 1982 by the President of France

My reaction to the news I am receiving from Beirut is one of horror. Those who bear the responsibility for such excesses are traitors to the cause they believe they are serving. The international community must rise up in protest against such massacres and decide on the measures necessary to prevent them.

France has already taken action to facilitate the implementation of peaceful settlements in the region. In the present circumstances, it is resolved to act once again. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is in touch with the parties concerned with a view to deciding what initiatives are desirable, including those involving the use of United Nations resources.

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Annex II

Declaration made on 17 September 1982 by the  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of France

The Israeli offensive in West Beirut since 15 September and the bombardments accompanying that action are a violation of the agreement accepted by the belligerents, which was widely approved by the international community and to the implementation of which France, the United States of America and Italy lent their assistance. This situation leaves numerous civilian populations unprotected, the guarantees given in consideration of the evacuation of armed forces now being seriously impaired.

France denounces and condemns a reversion for which there is no excuse. It is for Lebanon, and Lebanon alone, to ensure the continuity of its own institutions.

France deems essential the immediate return of the Israeli army to the positions it was occupying on 14 September last, in order that negotiations may begin forthwith on the conditions for evacuating all foreign armed forces from Lebanon.

The attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was drawn once again, when he was in Paris, to the necessity of implementing as a matter of urgency resolutions 516, 517 and 518, concerning United Nations observers in Beirut, whose presence in Lebanon in sufficient numbers, according to arrangements to be established with the Government of Lebanon, is clearly essential. France affirms here and now its resolve to lend its full support to whatever decisions might be taken.

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