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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 28 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The President of the Republic of Lebanon issued an appeal to all chiefs of State yesterday, asking them to help Lebanon save its capital city of Beirut, which is being threatened by the Israeli invasion.

I am forwarding herewith a copy of this appeal and have the honour to request that it be distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Appeal by the President of the Republic of Lebanon issued on 27 June 1982

In these darkest times of the endless tragedy which Lebanon has now known for more than seven years, and in these difficult hours during which the Lebanese people hold their breath in fear of the dangers which threaten Beirut with total deadly destruction, I address to you all this appeal, which expresses an outcry emanating from the conscience of a tortured people living under an imminent threat, and facing the destruction of what it cherishes most and holds tantamount to its being.

You are no doubt aware of the values which the city of Beirut represents to the Lebanese as well as to the Middle East and to the entire world. These values of democracy, freedom, openness and tolerance are qualities which have characterized Lebanon's mission in its region and in the evolution of universal culture.

You are also aware of the Israeli invasion of the Lebanese homeland since 6 June. At this time, we are striving with every effort to save Beirut from a true calamity. If it occurs, this calamity could haunt us with memories of the great tragedies of ancient and modern history that resulted in the total collapse of civilizations which had a notable impact on the course of human history.

In an earnest desire to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, and in an attempt to protect the human and cultural landmarks inside Beirut, I am addressing this urgent appeal to you, seeking your assistance in saving Beirut from a certain and imminent disaster.

I hope, from the depths of my heart, that my appeal will meet with your immediate response.

(Signed) Elias SARKIS
President of the Republic of Lebanon
