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Items 31 and 34 of the preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 15 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China on 15 June 1982 regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 31 and 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LING Qing
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON ISRAEL'S INVASION OF LEBANON

15 June 1982

On 4 June, Israel flagrantly launched a large-scale military invasion into Lebanon and has since forcibly occupied vast tracts of territory in central and southern Lebanon, bombed and attacked Lebanese cities and towns and the Palestinian refugee camps, thus causing bloodshed and loss of lives to tens of thousands of innocent people. At present, Israel is continuing to expand its acts of aggression under the camouflage of declaring a cease-fire and is pressing towards the urban area of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon.

The Israeli authorities, in brazen violation of the principles of international law, are carrying out naked aggression against a sovereign Arab state in a premeditated attempt to wipe out the resistance forces of the Palestinian people, thus committing another crime against the Arab people and seriously worsening the situation in the Middle East. The Chinese Government and people express utmost indignation at and strongly condemn this Israeli act of aggression.

At a time when Israel's frenzied invasion of Lebanon is being condemned by the people of various countries unanimously, the U.S. Government has openly used its veto power in the United Nations to obstruct the Security Council from adopting a draft resolution condemning Israel for its refusal to withdraw its troops. The United States should be condemned for abetting and supporting Israel in its aggression.

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The Chinese Government has always held that Israel must withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, that the Palestinian people must regain their national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish a state, and that there must be a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question. We firmly support the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian armed forces and people in their just struggle to resist Israeli aggression and safeguard their national rights. Israel must abide by the relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, stop its aggression against Lebanon immediately and withdraw all its troops from Lebanon unconditionally.

We sincerely hope that the Arab countries and people will unite closely in a common struggle against the enemy. We call on all the peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and people to join their efforts to stop Israel's aggression, support the just cause of the Arab people and maintain peace in the Middle East.
