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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. A month ago, the Security Council, considering the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate, debated the situation in southern Lebanon in a manner that left no doubt as to the unanimous concern of the international community for peace and security. Resolution 450 (1979) was voted with the understanding that measures were going to be taken, within the context of the United Nations, to create conditions that would be conducive to the total restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, the preservation of the territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon, and the full exercise of the Government's authority. The General Armistice Agreement of 1949 between Lebanon and Israel was confirmed and all parties were called upon to strictly observe the dispositions of the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions.

2. Yet, ever since resolution 450 (1979) was voted, and notwithstanding the universal climate of concern and urgency, Israel has consistently rejected all United Nations action and engaged in acts of defiance and aggression. At all levels of authority, the Israeli Government has been constantly announcing its intention to pursue military action inside Lebanon, which it did by land, sea and air, causing destruction and the death of innocent civilians. More seriously still, Israel's forces seem to have become determined to ignore totally the mandate, prerogatives, and inviolable character of the mission of UNIFIL. Constant harassments were reported daily, and incursions into the area of operations of UNIFIL reached, in the period between 6 and 10 July, an absolutely inadmissible level of defiance and violent behaviour: UNIFIL check-points were attacked, whole areas invaded, villages subjected to aggression, houses searched and civilians abducted and killed.

3. It is most unfortunate that a general context of violence and counter-violence has been created which, if left unchecked, might lead to total deterioration and an erosion, beyond repair, of the United Nations Forces' credibility and capacity to act efficiently, a danger that the Secretary-General had cautioned us all against, and that members of the Council and representatives of the Troop-Contributing States had all taken note of in their interventions during the debate.

4. Discussions between the appropriate United Nations and Lebanese authorities have, since the vote on resolution 450 (1979), been conducted intensively at all levels, with the hope that a practical framework of co-operation could be further

developed within which total implementation of resolution 425 (1978) could be attained in the best possible conditions. Such discussions, while continuing with determination on both the United Nations and Lebanon's part, will have no real chances of success if Israel continues its consistent policy of defiance of the Security Council, aggression against Lebanese sovereignty, and harassment of UNIFIL.

5. I am, Mr. President, under instructions from my Government to bring the matter to the attention of the Council, protesting in the strongest terms against Israel's policy and repeated acts of aggression. While reserving our right to call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, if conditions should deteriorate any further, I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
