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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 3 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At 10 p.m. (Lebanese local time) on Monday, 2 May 1988, Israel again invaded southern Lebanon. Large contingents of the Israeli Army crossed the southern Lebanese border, passing through the area which Israel continues to occupy and for which it uses the term "security zone". The forces penetrated some 15 kilometres north into the Arqoub/Harbaya region, reaching the town of Lebbaya, at the approaches to the Beqaa al-Gharbi region.

This morning the forces assembled in the town of Ain Aata and the hills overlooking the region and used heavy artillery to shell the mountains surrounding Ain Aata, Kfair and Ouadi Janaam.

The Israeli force is estimated to number 2,000 soldiers and is supported by tanks, artillery and military helicopters. For the second day in succession, it is carrying out heavy shelling of villages in the invaded areas, prior to entering them, and conducting sweeps through the hills which overlook them. It is also carrying out raids on houses and destroying some of them, arresting many of the population, ruining crops and terrorizing women, children and old people.

This fresh Israeli invasion is accompanied, day and night, by the deployment of Israeli Navy vessels along the Lebanese coast between Sidon and Tyre, as well as flights by the Israeli Air Force over those two towns and their suburbs and over the town of Khaldé, close to the capital, Beirut. The aircraft drop flare canisters over those areas at night.

* A/43/50.