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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 11 April 1979 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 latest series of attacks on Lebanese territory as follows:

1. On Tuesday, 10 April 1979, at 1725 hours, four Israeli planes raided the Delhamiyeh hills, south of Damour. The raid endured 20 minutes resulting in 15 casualties, including two civilians dead: a man and a woman. Their identity could not be immediately established.
2. At 1730 hours the vicinity of Tyre was subjected to sporadic shelling for 20 minutes.
3. At 1745 hours 10 Israeli planes attacked Ras el-Ain, near the ar-Rashidiyeh refugee camp.
4. At 2130 hours Israeli naval vessels attempted to carry out a landing operation near ar-Rashidiyeh.
5. On Wednesday, 11 April, at 0935 hours, two Israeli planes intruded into Lebanese airspace and flew over the area between Sidon and Damour.
6. At 0940 hours the town of Nabatiyeh and the villages of Kfar Tibnit, Kfar Rumman and Habboush were shelled from Israel.

Such attacks constitute, once more, a flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the terms of the Lebanese-Israeli Armistice Agreement of 23 March 1949.

They also constitute a further defiance of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 444 (1979) and other pertinent resolutions of the Council.

* A/34/50.

We cannot fail to relate present Israeli attacks to developments now taking place, under the aegis of the United Nations, in southern Lebanon.

The exacerbation of tensions, let alone the sacrifice of human lives in Lebanon, adds to the tragic conditions still prevailing there and can only undermine the efforts deployed for the restoration of peace and security in that region. It also prejudices the chances of reaching a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question.

Lebanon - which has been too long an innocent victim of the so-called "cycle of violence" - refuses to be held accountable for acts used by Israel as a questionable pretext in its consistent policy of destabilization and aggression. Indeed, alleged "media-reporting" cannot, in any way, give Israel the right to violate Lebanese sovereignty and take international law into its own hands.

My Government, while strongly protesting against Israel's aggression, reserves its right to call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, should conditions further deteriorate.

You are kindly requested to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
