

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/13516
24 August 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In his letter to you on 6 August 1979 (S/13486), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon drew your attention, as well as that of the Security Council, to the situation in south Lebanon and the escalation of violence which has caused the loss of innocent lives and rendered the mission of UNIFIL extremely difficult.

As you are well aware, in resolution 450 (1979), the Security Council called upon Israel "to cease forthwith its acts against the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon". The Council resolved further "to examine practical ways and means in accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to secure the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978)".

Since our letter of 6 August, Israel has attacked and shelled positions inside Lebanon. Yesterday I sent two letters to the Council underlining those unwarranted attacks against my country. More innocent victims fell, mainly children. The bloodshed has not stopped. Tyre was savagely bombarded, and so were the villages of Ain ed-Dilb and el-Miye-wa-Miye. Preliminary reports speak of 10 killed and 18 wounded, and heavy damage to property. As of 2300 hours, Beirut time, shelling was in progress along a wide front. The final toll can be much more grave.

Undoubtedly, these attacks have an adverse effect on UNIFIL's mandate. The Security Council cannot remain indifferent to these attacks, and the Lebanese Government feels strongly that UNIFIL must be in a position to implement its mandate fully. Its prerogative to use force has clearly been spelled out in cases of self-defence and if prevented by force to carry out its mandate (para. 4 (d) of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), establishing UNIFIL).

The tragic death of three UNIFIL soldiers of the Fiji battalion and the wounding of two others can be explained only in terms of the cycle of violence and counterviolence. My Government firmly believes in the role of UNIFIL and in the urgent need to provide it with the means to implement its mandate.

On instructions from my Government, and in view of the continued escalation of violence and the loss of innocent human lives, I have the honour to request

S/13516
English
Page 2

you to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council. My Government feels that the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon is endangering peace and security beyond any tolerable level, and it is now imperative to ask the Council to take the appropriate measures, including the imposition of sanctions on Israel to put, once and for all, an end to its aggression against Lebanon.

(Signed) Fakhri SAGHIYYAH
Charge d'Affaires a.i.