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SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of  
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith some extracts of a speech made by His Excellency Mr. Elias Sarkis, the President of the Republic, on the occasion of the third anniversary of his accession to the presidency. The extracts relate to the United Nations, the question of Southern Lebanon, the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the resolutions of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the extracts circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUÉNI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Extracts from a speech by the President of the Lebanese Republic  
concerning United Nations action in Lebanon

Lebanese citizens,

I shall now focus my attention on the tragedy of beloved Southern Lebanon, which bleeds, suffers and is exposed to destruction, martyred on all sides yet resisting from a fierce devotion to its identity and firmly sheltering behind its national and human right, although its land is being consumed, its towns and villages are being destroyed, its inhabitants are being persecuted and deported, life is slowing down, and hundreds of thousands of refugees are being forced to withdraw to other regions, leaving behind them their dead ones and the fruits of their labour, taking with them their sufferings and their injuries, compounding the national problem of shortage of housing and health facilities and adding to social and educational difficulties.

We have raised the problem of Southern Lebanon before the entire world, beginning with our Arab brothers, and we have candidly described before kings and presidents what is happening and portrayed the situation as it really is. We have invited them to assist Lebanon in overcoming this crisis and, in so doing, to take decisions for which we would all be responsible and all answer for the consequences, for it is unjust that a weak country should be cast alone into the confrontation with Israel, bearing the burden of a war of attrition which threatens its entity and its existence.

If it is the duty of Lebanon, in its current situation, to face up to the war being waged against it and the Palestinians in its territory, this duty is one to be shared by all brother Arab countries, each of which has a well-defined role to play, in accordance with its possibilities. And if the interests of Lebanon and of the Arab countries require that a non-military transitional formula be found, the Arab States are requested to assist Lebanon to find such a formula and to ensure that it is implemented.

And so I consider that Arab solidarity demands the following alternative:

A generalized confrontation or a calm settlement with regard to Lebanon and the other Arab countries adjacent to occupied territory. In any event, Lebanon cannot continue to endure alone and in all regions of the country - whether it be the South, the Bekaa, the North, the capital or the mountains - the consequences of the present situation, characterized by the death of innocent victims, the destruction of property and the affront to national dignity.

While I would thank some of our brother Arab countries for the assistance rendered to victims in the South, I must state that this aid constitutes a partial and provisional remedy, since no one can evaluate in advance the scope of the

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assistance which Lebanon, and in particular the South, requires to effect its reconstruction and guarantee its inhabitants a tranquil existence once again.

In speaking of the South, I must also emphasize the international assistance and sympathy accorded to Lebanon, and the special attention given to Lebanon by the United Nations, and this includes the many resolutions adopted by the Security Council, which the United Nations emergency forces are making an appreciable effort to apply, within the limits of their resources and prerogatives. These resolutions are limited in their effect for the time being, and I hope that it will soon be possible for the international forces to be deployed, together with the army, throughout the area of Southern Lebanon, in pursuance of the Security Council resolutions. In this way the crisis of Southern Lebanon will be dissociated from the Middle East crisis, thus enabling Lebanon to turn its attention to the solution of the urgent internal problems which exist in all areas. (...)

I look forward to the day, in the near future, when the army will fully carry out its role in Southern Lebanon and in every region of our territory, thereby restoring State sovereignty throughout our homeland.

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