



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/746/
S/20240
24 October 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Agenda item 40
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 24 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters, the most recent of which is dated 21 October 1988 (A/43/737-S/20235), I have the honour to inform you of the following:

On Monday, 24 October 1988, at 0130 hours (local Lebanese time), the Israeli air force again attacked Lebanese territory from the air. Two Phantom aircraft bombed the outskirts of the village of Beit Lahia, situated on the banks of the Bekaa, at a distance of 15 kilometres from the area occupied by Israel and described as a "security zone" by it, and fired four air-to-ground missiles. At the time of writing of this letter, it is impossible to assess the damage and human losses inflicted by the attack.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the Israeli air attack - the second in three days - and warns against the escalation of acts of aggression perpetrated against Lebanon by Israeli leaders. On the eve of parliamentary elections, the latter are bent on winning the votes of the Israeli voters and are unconcerned about the devastation wrought by barbarous and blind air attacks which cause innocent persons to lose their lives.

The Lebanese Government deeply regrets the failure on the part of the United Nations and the Security Council to react either to the Israeli air attacks or to the continuing Israeli policy of aggression against Lebanon. Israel is taking advantage of this lack of reaction to carry out its plans and attain its goals, since nothing is being done to halt its violations of the sovereignty, territorial

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integrity, airspace and territorial waters of Lebanon. Israel must eventually abide by the Charter of the United Nations and by international law and treaties.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
