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LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1974 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, and pursuant to my letter of 21 November 1974 (S/11560), I have the honour to communicate to you the following:

On 12 December, at 4.00 p.m., Israeli phantom jets attacked Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirts of Beirut for seven minutes. As a result, 10 persons were wounded.

Early this morning, 13 December, between 00.30 and 1.00 a.m., Israeli artillery shelled the town of Nabatiyeh in southern Lebanon. The public square, the main street and other areas were hit by shells of 175 millimetres. As a consequence, six persons were wounded, seven houses were damaged and one house, belonging to Mr. Rafic Shaheen, a member of Lebanon's Parliament, was destroyed. Another house and a public café were also destroyed. Seven automobiles, the town pharmacy, the post office and the gendarmerie were damaged as well.

The Israeli assaults are once more aimed at terrorizing the civilian population in Lebanon and at victimizing Lebanon for hosting Palestinian refugees whom Israel has evicted and against whom Israel continues to conduct a systematic policy of terror.

The Israeli Government, for apparent political reasons, and in order to divert attention from its own domestic problems, attempts to find in Lebanon a scapegoat for acts of violence committed inside Israel. Israeli spokesmen announce that these assaults were in retaliation for the incident that took place in a cinema in Tel Aviv a few days ago.

How can Lebanon be held responsible for an act of violence which took place in Tel Aviv and which was committed by a non-Lebanese and non-Arab, who arrived in Israel from a non-Arab country in which he resided? Lebanon cannot be held responsible for acts of violence committed within Israel.

The repugnant policies of Israel provoke the abhorrence and indignation of the world community. In its resolution 347 (1974) of 24 April 1974, the Security Council condemned violations of Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty and called once more on the Government of Israel to refrain from further military actions and threats against Lebanon.

The Lebanese Government has forewarned the Security Council on many occasions about the dangers that Israel's persistent and aggressive policy poses to peace and security in the Middle East.

Israel continues to defy the resolutions of the Security Council, the United Nations Charter and international law. This Israeli defiance and the Council's inaction to give effect to its decisions are creating a situation fraught with grave dangers.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edouard GHORRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
