

# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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## LETTER DATED 2 JUNE 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement made today by His Excellency Mr. Sleiman Franjieh, President of the Lebanese Republic, in the course of his monthly press conference:

"Lebanon, a country where toleration, liberty and humanity prevail, is not bound in any way whatsoever to assume responsibility for acts of violence whose recurrence and escalation it deplores.

"It is not Lebanon which can be held responsible for the presence in its territory, and the growing despair, of 300,000 Palestinian refugees, who are in Lebanon only because Israel, which drove them from their homes, refuses to allow them to return.

"It is not Lebanon by itself but the international community which is able, and has a duty, to find the only valid solution to the situation of these refugees, a solution of peace based on justice.

"In the absence of such peace based on justice, all the reprisals taken by Israel against the Palestinian resistance movement and the countries which have admitted the Palestinian refugees, can only serve to aggravate the problem which has been created and to exacerbate still further the cruel situation with which we are confronted.

"It is an inexorable law, borne out at every stage by world history, that violence against resistance in occupied countries merely strengthens that resistance and goads it to the most extreme reactions.

"More particularly, with regard to the violent incident at Lod airport which followed the tragic outcome of another violent incident at the same airport two weeks earlier, despite the intervention of the International Red

\* Revised version issued for technical reasons.

Cross, how could Lebanon be held responsible for the action of foreign commandos transported to Israel from a foreign capital by a foreign company?

"The fact that a Palestinian organization should have claimed responsibility for the incident in a communiqué issued at Beirut has no significance beyond the fact that Beirut is a centre for the worldwide dissemination of information. Nevertheless, to avoid Israel's exploiting the event as a new, fallacious pretext in an attempt to justify its aggressive plans to world public opinion, the Government of Lebanon, which had already done everything possible to counter the operational activities of the organization in question, has taken new measures to prevent Lebanon's being a centre of its information activities.

"Lebanon's purpose in addressing itself to world public opinion is to ensure that its voice is heard - a voice which, despite the campaign which Israel is now waging against it, shall remain the voice of truth, justice and reason. The role to which Lebanon is called is to ensure that right shall prevail. Only recently, it sought and obtained more United Nations observers to be posted at its frontiers in order to forestall any unjust accusations. That is merely one proof among many of the fact that we have acted in good conscience. Our country could not possibly be held responsible for something which is the outcome of the repercussions of the tragic incidents generated by the tragedy of Palestine, of which Lebanon itself is one of the principal victims.

"Lebanon condemns and rejects acts of violence. As in the past it condemned the barbarous acts committed by Zionism at, for example, the King David Hotel, at Deir Yassin, at Bahr el-Bakar and in Lebanon itself - an exhaustive list of such acts would be too large to prepare - it follows that Lebanon, faithful to its consistent position, should today condemn the attack against Lod airport during which a considerable number of innocent civilians were killed or wounded."

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edouard GHORRA

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
to the United Nations

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