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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 6 December 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a TASS statement dated 5 December 1983.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the agenda and as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

Annex

TASS STATEMENT

The United States, pursuing the escalation of its armed intervention in the Middle East, has committed another barbarous act of aggression in Lebanon.

Several dozen fighter-bombers based on aircraft carriers belonging to the United States Navy took part in the large-scale bombing of a number of areas in the Lebanese mountains, including positions of the Lebanese national patriotic forces and Syrian troops forming part of the Pan-Arab peace-keeping force in that country. This unprovoked raid by the United States Air Force was clearly deliberately designed to worsen the situation in Lebanon and the surrounding area and to create a pretext for the further escalation of United States acts of aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is impossible not to see a direct link between the latest murderous attack and the far-reaching anti-Arab "strategic compact" between Washington and Tel Aviv which was formalized at the recent talks between President Reagan and the Israeli leaders. In fact, the raid by the United States Air Force was part of a joint operation carried out by the United States and Israel with a view to forcing the Lebanese to accept a settlement at odds with their vital interests. It is the United States and Israel which, by their actions, have broken the cease-fire agreement hitherto observed in Lebanon, and it is they and their Governments which must bear complete responsibility for the consequences.

This act of aggression by the United States has once again made it quite clear that Washington and Tel Aviv are not interested in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the Middle East and that they want to bring the whole region under their military and political control. The present United States Administration has once and for all cast off its mask of "honest broker" in Middle East affairs and is openly pursuing a policy of pressure based on military force against those resisting Israeli expansionism and the diktat of the United States.

This new act of aggression by the United States represents an act of defiance vis-à-vis the United Nations and a gross violation of Security Council decisions aimed at restoring Lebanon's sovereignty and safeguarding its independence and territorial integrity.

The Soviet Union resolutely condemns this act of aggression and declares its solidarity with the peoples of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and other Arab countries defending their independence and resisting United States and Israeli attempts to force them to accept crushing conditions for a Middle East settlement.

The Government of the United States must realize that United States armed interference in Lebanon and United States acts of aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic represent a serious threat to peace in the Middle East and elsewhere.
