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Item 37 of the preliminary list\*  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

 SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to the many letters I have addressed to you on the subject of the unremitting Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

On Tuesday, 28 February 1989, at 11.30 a.m. (local time), six Israeli Phantom-type fighters bombed the villages of Aïnab, Baïssour, Chimtone and Aïnat, which are less than 20 kilometres south-east of Beirut. The raid in question lasted half an hour, and in the course of it Israeli aircraft fired 14 air-to-ground missiles and dropped a number of time bombs with the aim of causing maximum loss of life and material damage.

The outcome of the Israeli bombing was as follows: 3 dead, and 27 injured - many of whom are in a critical condition and among whom there is a female primary-school teacher and 21 children aged from 5 to 10 years, who were injured when a missile struck the covered playground of a public school in the village of Aïnab; and 20 houses destroyed in the four villages and 15 vehicles set on fire, in addition to the damage to the school and to shops.

Since the area attacked is close to Beirut International Airport, the Lebanese authorities were obliged to close the airport from 11.35 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. because of the threat that this Israeli raid represented for civil aviation.

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\* A/44/50.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns this new Israeli act of aggression, which is an attack against the sovereignty of Lebanon, the non-violability of its airspace and its territorial integrity and confirms Israel's determination to persist in its barbarous acts of aggression and inhuman practices against the Lebanese people, as well as in its contempt for international law, practices and instruments, for world opinion and for the resolutions of the Security Council. It should also be recalled that the spokesman of the United Nations Secretary-General has condemned the act of aggression in question and expressed great regret at the resulting loss of life and material damage.

The Lebanese Government wishes to stress that this new act of aggression has taken place at a time when the Arab countries and the international community are making an active effort to rescue Lebanon from the great ordeals that it has been undergoing for over 14 years. This act of aggression also reveals Israel's intention to destabilize the situation in Lebanon whenever there are any prospects of stability and internal security.

The Lebanese Government calls on the international community and the members of the Security Council, either individually or collectively, to take all the necessary measures to put an end to Israel's acts of aggression. Silence and obstruction with a view to preventing the Security Council from functioning have simply encouraged Israel to continue to be obstinate and to pursue its policy of aggression, with all its implications in terms of human tragedy, material damage and elements that militate against security and stability in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Government reserves the right to request a meeting of the Security Council in due course.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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