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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 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 inform you of the following:

On Sunday, 15 October 1972, between 3.45 and 4.15 p.m., Israeli aircraft bombed four places in Lebanon:

- Bakifa, in the south-eastern region;
- the Nahr-Sainik region to the south of Sidon;
- Bourghoulyé to the south of the river Kasmiyyé;
- Deir Ashayer, in the south-east near the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Three Lebanese civilians were seriously wounded.

Several Palestinians were killed and many were wounded.

Dwellings suffered severe damage. Telephone, electricity and water systems were damaged, particularly in the Mediterranean region of Tyre and Sidon.

Previously, Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon had been described as acts of reprisal in response to other acts which, according to Israel, had been directed against it.

Each time, the Israeli leaders gave pretexts to justify their acts of aggression. However false such pretexts were, and although they were never upheld by the Security Council, they at least showed that Israel was still somewhat anxious to provide international opinion with some excuse for its acts of aggression.

Israeli leaders' presentation of and comments on the aggression of 15 October 1972 show that they are no longer prompted by even these scruples. In future, according to Mrs. Golda Meir and Israeli military spokesmen, Israel intends to feel free to attack wherever there are Palestinians.

It is no longer a question of so-called reprisals but of offensive terrorist action openly aimed at extermination.

Among its other consequences, this policy of systematic and unprovoked aggression will inevitably endanger the independence, security and integrity of Lebanon and keep its civilian population under the constant threat of terror. It also constitutes flagrant defiance of all the principles and values upon which the United Nations is founded.

In short, Israel is assuming the right to attack deliberately and indiscriminately any civilian centres on Lebanese territory without even invoking the semblance of a pretext.

The Lebanese Government strongly denounces Israel's State terrorism based on its military arrogance.

The Lebanese Government believes that the Security Council cannot remain indifferent to the facts involved in the latest Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the dangerous new policy outlined by the Israeli leaders.

The new Israeli policy based on military arrogance is intensifying its usual defiance of the authority of the Security Council and the principles of the Charter. Since the Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, it must find appropriate means to deal with this situation.

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

(Signed) Edouard CHORRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative