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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the text of an announcement by the Israel Prime Minister's spokesman with regard to the decision of the Government of Lebanon to unilaterally abrogate its agreement with Israel of 17 May 1983.

The text of that announcement is as follows:

"The agreement that was signed on 17 May 1983 between Lebanon and Israel was concluded after free negotiations between the two States. The American Government actively participated in these negotiations and in the attainment of the agreement. The agreement, which was an expression of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, was approved by an overwhelming majority of the Lebanese Parliament. The purpose of the agreement was to establish a new era in the relationship between Lebanon and Israel, to determine minimal security arrangements and to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

"Syria is the obstacle to Lebanon's independence and the main factor disturbing the effort to enlarge the circle of peace in the Middle East. Therefore, immediately after the signing of the agreement of 17 May 1983, Syria began to take violent action to achieve the abrogation of the agreement. Syria forced the Lebanese Government to surrender to its dictates, which means a death sentence for Lebanese independence and sovereignty. Israel strongly condemns the Syrian intervention and the abrogation of the agreement.

"In light of the fact that, in this situation, Lebanon is incapable of fulfilling its international obligations and of preventing south Lebanon from being turned once again into a terrorist base, Israel itself will determine the best ways to ensure its security.

"In addition, Israel will continue to show friendship to the Lebanese people and, especially, to friends with whom it has had close relations for a long time. Israel hopes that Lebanon will succeed in restoring its sovereignty and in liberating itself from Syrian domination. Israel is ready even today to carry out the agreement of 17 May 1983."

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

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

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