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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 July 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my previous letter concerning Israeli practices in areas of Lebanon under Israeli occupation, and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

"The decision had been made to hold the official examinations for the baccalaureate certificate in Lebanon today. These are annual examinations taken on the same day by all pupils presenting themselves as candidates throughout Lebanese territory. They take place under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts which sets candidates uniform question papers which are sent from the capital, Beirut, to all examination centres.

"It saddens me to inform you that the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon prevented pupils from that area from presenting themselves for the examinations. They also rejected all proposals made by the competent Lebanese authorities for the conveyance of the question papers for the examinations to southern Lebanon by a United Nations helicopter.

"Three days ago, the Israeli forces detained a truck arriving from Beirut with the stationery necessary for the conduct of the examinations.

"In view of the failure of all attempts to dissuade the Israeli authorities from their obstinacy, it has been decided to postpone the examinations in the south to a time to be fixed subsequently.

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"You are well aware of the damage that such conduct causes to the future of thousands of pupils and that it shows contempt for the sanctity of education and culture, to say nothing of its constituting a violation of the most elementary ethical and humanitarian principles."

I request you to be so kind as to have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
