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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 September 1989 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Secretary of State of the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the American-Soviet statement on Lebanon of 23 September 1989 (see annex).

We request you to circulate this text as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of its agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James A. BAKER, III
Secretary of State of
the United States of America

(Signed) Eduard A. SHEVARDNADZE
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

ANNEX

Joint statement on Lebanon dated 23 September 1989
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the
United States of America

While expressing their deep concern over the absence of peace and a settlement in Lebanon, the United States and the Soviet Union reaffirm their urgent appeal to take all necessary measures to bring to an end the sufferings of the Lebanese people, and urge a continued search for a political solution of the Lebanese crisis. They reaffirm the assumption that there is no military solution to the problems of that country. A constructive dialogue between Lebanese who themselves must reach lasting agreements on peaceful arrangements in Lebanon on the basis of a balance of interests is the only rational path towards national reconciliation.

The United States and the Soviet Union welcome the resumption of the peace-making mission of the Tripartite Committee of the Arab League on Lebanon in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Casablanca Arab summit and the Committee's efforts aimed at a cease-fire, the lifting of blockades, and initiation of the process of political settlement. They call upon all the parties involved in Lebanese affairs to respond positively to these efforts and to do their utmost to support the Tripartite Committee's action to complete its work successfully. They also note the importance of extending strong international support for the activities of the Tripartite Committee and for their own part intend to proceed further in this direction. Both sides reaffirm their resolute position in favour of preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Lebanese State.

The United States and the Soviet Union condemn any acts of taking hostages and demand that they be set free no matter where or by whom they are held captive.
