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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 21 December 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your attention document A/39/837-S/16866, in which the Government of Lebanon levelled unfounded and unwarranted accusations against the Israel Defense Forces.

In recent weeks my Government obtained reliable intelligence that terrorists were basing themselves in several villages in south Lebanon and preparing to carry out attacks from them. Acting on this information, the Israel Defense Forces carried out an operation to prevent terrorist attacks from the villages of Burg-Rahhal, Bidyas, Tora and Maraka.

Our units uncovered several ammunition and weapons caches, including M-16 and RPD heavy machine-guns, Kalachnikov rifles, RPG rocket-launchers, dynamite slabs, hand grenades and other weapons. They also found propaganda material inciting civil disruption. Twenty suspects were arrested as a result of this operation; six were caught cleaning weapons they had used the night before in an attack against Israel's forces. In Maraka, a wanted terrorist was shot by Israeli troops.

Despite strict precautions by the Israel Defense Forces to avoid unnecessary casualties, a woman was fatally wounded during an unprovoked attack against Israeli forces. (On the same day, and unrelated to this operation, another woman was found stabbed in her home as a result of a dispute over family honour.)

Israel is committed to preserving peace and security in south Lebanon. The Israel Defense Forces will not allow terrorists to organize armed attacks in the area or to use south Lebanon as a staging ground for terrorist activities against Israel.

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I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Benjamin NETANYAHU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
