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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 15 November 1989 from the Permanent Representatives  
of France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Franco-Soviet statement on the Middle East and Lebanon of 14 November 1989.

We should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, under agenda items 37 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pierre-Louis BLANC  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of France  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Aleksandr M. BELONOGOV  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Franco-Soviet statement on the Middle East and Lebanon,  
made at Moscow on 14 November 1989

During the exchanges of views which took place between them on the situation in the Middle East, Mr. Roland Dumas, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, stated that they favoured a speedy political settlement of the Israel-Arab conflict which would fully meet the vital interests of the peoples and States of that region, as well as the interests of the strengthening of international peace and security.

France and the USSR also intend to step up their activities designed to encourage the ongoing efforts aimed at the establishment of political dialogue between the parties immediately concerned, while respecting their rights and interests, with a view to reducing tension and creating an atmosphere of trust.

France and the USSR confirmed their readiness to embark on consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council with a view to examining ways of initiating a peace process in the Middle East.

France and the Soviet Union consider that an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of representatives of all the parties concerned and of the five permanent members of the Security Council, would be conducive to an overall settlement which would ensure peace and security for all States in the region, including Israel, on the basis of the principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and of the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

With reference to the situation in Lebanon, France and the Soviet Union noted the need for implementation of the Taif agreements, the first stage in which was the election of the new President of the Lebanese Republic. They call on all parties to support this process of national reconciliation and restoration of the unity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon throughout its entire territory.

In the spirit of the joint statement of 5 July 1989 issued by President Mitterand and President Gorbachev, France and the Soviet Union confirm their common intention to promote together the political settlement of the situation in Lebanon.

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