



General Assembly Security Council

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SEP 8 - 1982

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/423
S/15386 ✓
7 September 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-seventh session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 3 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 26 August 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency (A/37/411-S/15376) and to state the following:

Israel's position with regard to the situation in Lebanon is well known. It has been stated on numerous occasions, both within and outside the United Nations. In the General Assembly, it was expressed most recently in my statement of 17 August 1982 in which I reaffirmed Israel's support:

"for the full restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, of Lebanese independence, of Lebanese territorial integrity, of the unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries and for the restoration of the lawful authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout the length and breadth of that country ... Lebanon, rightly and properly, belongs to its own people and to them alone.

"Israel has no territorial ambitions whatsoever in Lebanon. We do not covet even one single square inch of Lebanese territory ... Israel wants peace in and with Lebanon. Israel has no quarrel with Lebanon, only with those who have subjugated it."

(A/ES-7/PV.26, pp. 41-42)

Regrettably, certain countries, while paying lip service to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon, have over the years chosen to

* A/37/150.

ignore the causes that brought about the erosion of Lebanese sovereignty and independence, namely, the gradual and systematic subjugation of Lebanon by the terrorist PLO and by Syria.

Likewise, the letter by the Chargé d'Affaires of Egypt under reply also ignores the remaining problems related to the situation in Lebanon and the need for the complete evacuation of the remaining Syrian forces and PLO terrorists from Lebanese soil.

The frivolous approach that regrettably characterizes the letter of the Chargé d'Affaires of Egypt is also reflected in the manner in which the said letter treats the various aspects of the Palestinian problem.

All those aspects have been discussed between the Governments of Israel and Egypt and the understanding reached between them has found expression in concrete, well-defined and binding concepts laid down in the Camp David Accord on the Framework for Peace in the Middle East of 17 September 1978, which is based on the mutually agreed interpretation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967).

Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and the Camp David Accords, which are firmly grounded in that resolution, serve as the only agreed basis for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. Any attempt to tamper with that resolution in any form whatsoever can only undermine the delicate framework on which the entire Middle East peace process rests.

Any State or organization which has rejected or opposed the Camp David Accords and the Israel-Egyptian Peace Treaty of 26 March 1979 has disqualified itself from fulfilling any role in the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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