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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 16 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I regret to transmit to you the following information concerning the latest Israeli attacks of 15 December 1987.

1. An Israeli helicopter bombarded a Lebanese Army position at Ain et Tiné (western Bekaa) and made direct hits on it resulting in the destruction of an armoured vehicle and the wounding of one of the soldiers.
2. An Israeli force, supported by tanks and helicopters, advanced from within the so-called "security zone" towards the town of Maidoun, which lies at a distance of 21 kilometres from the Israeli frontier and, under heavy artillery cover, aimed at the town and its surroundings. This operation, which took four hours, resulted in a total of 25 killed or wounded.
3. Following the completion of the above-mentioned operation, the Israeli forces proceeded to occupy what was for them a new position outside the so-called "security zone" and approximately 2 kilometres to the north of the last position of the Israeli forces.
4. The villages of Yatar, Braachit and Kafra were exposed to shelling, which caused material losses of houses and agricultural crops.

The Lebanese Government, in censuring and condemning this new aggression and the continuing inhumane and terrorist practices, reaffirms its position that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory is creating an explosive situation which presents a threat to the peace and security of the region as a whole and that Israel's compliance with the international will through the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to withdrawal from southern Lebanon, the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon up

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to the recognized international frontier and enabling the legitimate Lebanese authority to regain its sovereignty over the whole of its territory are the only way to achieve peace and security for the region and its people.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
