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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 26 May 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the following information on the acts of aggression committed by the Israeli occupation forces in Lebanese territory on 25 and 26 May 1988. The target of these attacks, in which 500 Israeli soldiers took part, supported by armoured combat vehicles, armoured personnel carriers and military aircraft, and which continued throughout the day of Wednesday, 25 May, was an extensive area in southern Lebanon. A detailed description follows.

- On 25 May, at 0730, the villages of Jbaa Bou Souar, Mlikh and Louaiziyé, which are situated in the central part of southern Lebanon, came under heavy bombardment carried out from the so-called "security zone", at which time Israeli aircraft overflew the area at low altitude. The artillery pounding was followed by military operations in which helicopters took part, and a mixed force of Israeli army soldiers and soldiers of the South Lebanon Army entered the village of Louaiziyé, situated outside the so-called "security zone", and destroyed a number of dwellings.
- On the same day, at 1515, Israeli aircraft carried out three sorties in the course of which they bombed hills lying between Jarjouh and Kfar Fila in the same sector.
- At 1530, Maidoun and Aïn et Tiné, situated west of Bekaa, were subjected to artillery fire, which ended only at 1920.

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\* A/43/50.

- At 1545, two shells fell in the vicinity of Jezzine.
- At 2200, four Israeli helicopters overflew the city of Sidon and launched rockets on the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp.

On 26 May, Israeli aircraft carried out raids between 0800 and 0830 on the hills situated between Jarjough and Ain Bou Souar; the same sector came under artillery fire which made hits at Arab Salim, Qana and Houmine El-Faouqa. In addition, a mixed force made up of 300 soldiers belonging to the Israeli army and the South Lebanon Army, attacked the town of Louaiziyé for the second in two days after subjecting it to intense artillery pounding, while Israeli helicopters dropped bombs which destroyed several private vehicles in the streets of the above-mentioned localities.

According to preliminary reports, the attacks resulted in 25 dead, countless injured, and 16 persons missing. In addition a large number of dwellings were demolished, property was destroyed and crops ruined, and hundreds of families were forced to leave their villages.

While denouncing and strongly condemning these new attacks on Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and the lives and fundamental rights of Lebanese citizens, the Lebanese Government wishes to draw the attention of the international community to the contempt which Israel has shown for international conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and United Nations resolutions, in particular, Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and subsequent resolutions reaffirming the latter's provisions and which declare that Israel is under an obligation to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanese territory so that stability and security can be restored in the region.

Lebanon has already drawn attention to Israel's plans to interfere in Lebanese affairs at this critical juncture, plans which Israeli leaders have openly acknowledged in their statements. These recent attacks have borne out our apprehensions and given further proof of Israel's stubborn determination to persist in its criminal plans.

Israeli officials have of late carried their arrogance to the point of describing their repeated and destructive acts of aggression against Lebanon as "routine" operations. Lebanon vehemently rejects such a trivialization of these attacks on its security and independence, and on the lives, security and property of its citizens, and calls upon the international community, represented by the United Nations and its various organs, to put an end to this Israeli arrogance which has led one Member State of the United Nations to claim for itself the right to violate, daily and with impunity, international law, custom and conventions.

Lebanon reserves the right to request the convening of a meeting of the Security Council in due course to consider the situation created by these most recent acts of aggression by Israel.

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I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 40 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Chawki CHOUERI  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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