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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 21 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, at 12.30 p.m. today (local time), Israel launched a new air attack against Lebanese territory, the eighth such attack since the beginning of 1989.

A formation of six Israeli military aircraft carried out three raids on the outskirts of Dâmour and Naamé, situated 20 kilometres south of the capital, Beirut. The rockets and bombs used in the raids caused considerable loss of life and material damage. During this time Israeli naval units remained at a standstill off the coast of Lebanon, observed the operations and stood in readiness to intervene if need be.

The Government of Lebanon condemns in the strongest terms this latest attack by Israel against Lebanese territory, which has resulted in the loss of human life and material damage, and which constitutes a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and the integrity of its territory and airspace, and of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law.

The Government of Lebanon takes the view that Israel persists in this course of action solely because of the indifference of the international community and the failure of the Security Council to perform its function to prevent Israel from pursuing its policy of aggression against Lebanon. It therefore holds Israel and

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the Security Council entirely responsible for the situation and reserves the right to request the convening of a meeting of the Council at such time as it deems appropriate with a view to the Council taking a decision to put an end to such acts of aggression by Israel, to protect the lives of Lebanese citizens, and to safeguard the sovereignty of Lebanon and the integrity of its territorial, maritime and air space.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Permanent Representative
