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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters concerning Israel's repeated acts of aggression against Lebanon, I regret to inform you of a further Israeli act of aggression against villages in the western Bekaa region on Friday, 23 June 1989. At 1100 hours local time, a joint force of the Israeli Army and "South Lebanon Army" militias, estimated at 100 in number, advanced five kilometres beyond the so-called "security zone" in 15 armoured vehicles, covered by artillery fire, tanks and helicopter gunships. They carried out a large-scale offensive operation against the villages of Maidoun, Qélia and Jabal el-Dahr, lasting eight hours, during which all types of weapons were employed. The operation resulted in four deaths, numerous injuries and massive damage to property.

This operation was accompanied by arrests in the village of Qélia. The acts of aggression followed military attacks against this region on 31 May and 7 June 1989.

The Israeli forces had made preparations for this latest attack by moving a contingent of some 300 soldiers, supported by 35 tanks, to the northern part of the so-called "security zone" on the afternoon of Thursday, 22 June 1989. Artillery batteries were positioned in preparation for the following day's attack.

^{*} A/44/50/Rev.1.

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It should be noted that the attack on the village of Maidoun in May 1988, which resulted in its complete destruction, was discussed by the Security Council at that time.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns this fresh Israeli act of aggression against Lebanon, constituting as it does a flagrant encroachment upon Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity and a continued violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, besides causing the deaths of Lebanese nationals and damage to their property.

Israel's persistence in its policy of aggression against Lebanon is a consequence of international silence and of the Security Council's failure to address its previous acts of aggression. Those acts constitute a precedent which is incompatible with the objectives of maintaining international peace and security and the principles of international law and international relations.

The Lebanese Government reserves the right to request that the Security Council be convened, and that an appropriate resolution be adopted to halt the Israeli acts of aggression, with a view to preserving the lives of citizens and maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Would you kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(<u>Signed</u>) Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative