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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 12 January 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters concerning the persistent Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanese territory, I have the honour to call your attention to the following:

First: at 11.30 p.m. local Lebanese time on Wednesday, 11 January 1989, the Israeli Air Force bombarded the town of Bgosta, situated 4 kilometres to the north-east of Sidon, with four air-to-surface missiles which caused serious material damage to property.

The bombardment was preceded by intense activity by Israeli aircraft at a very low level over the city of Sidon and the surrounding areas.

Secondly: less than 13 hours later, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 12 January 1989, the Israeli Air Force again bombarded the town of Bgosta with three air-to-surface missiles which caused further material damage and human losses the extent of which it is not possible to determine at the present time.

These two air raids are the first to occur in 1989. The year 1988 saw 30 acts of aerial aggression against Lebanese territory which left more than 100 dead and 200 wounded, in addition to serious material damage to property.

The Lebanese Government condemns these Israeli attacks in the strongest possible terms and charges Israel with full responsibility for them and for the human and material losses they have caused. It affirms that Israel's policy of aggression against Lebanon has never lacked for proof and that those acts of aggression and Israel's acknowledgement of them constitute a continuing escalation of the situation in southern Lebanon, a growing danger to the security of the area and a constant threat to the lives of the Lebanese people residing in the south.

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The Lebanese Government reiterates its warning against the reluctance or failure of the Security Council to take deterrent measures against Israel and to implement the resolutions adopted that would restrain Israel, protect Lebanon against aggression and safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Lebanese Government, in requesting you to apprise the Security Council of the foregoing, reserves its right to call for a meeting of the Council at the time that it might determine.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY
Permanent Representative
