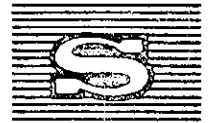


UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/13285
30 April 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization and would like to request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulmohsen EL JEAAN
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the State
of Kuwait to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 27 April 1979 from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization addressed to the President
of the Security Council

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to bring the following to your attention:

Our military sources have confirmed that Israel has used in its recent attacks on Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages 155 and 175 mm. heavy artillery in addition to a new type of artillery shell, known as the fragmentation shell.

Also known as the "firecracker", the fragmentation shell is an anti-personnel weapon which explodes twice in mid-air - the first time to get rid of its outer casing, the second time to ensure the largest possible spread of the thousands of deadly shell fragments which shower the area below. It is therefore closely akin to the "cluster bomb" used by Israel repeatedly against Palestinian and Lebanese civilian targets over the past few years, in spite of the claims of the United States - which supplied Israel with these weapons - that the weapons (which are designed for use against human beings not under shelter or inside fortifications) may not be used by Israel except in wartime and for "defensive purposes".

Palestinian military sources have confirmed that the fragmentation shell was first used in March 1978, presumably in very small numbers, against targets in the Tyre area during Israel's invasion of south Lebanon. But in the heavy Israeli shelling which accompanied the deployment of the Lebanese battalion attached to UNIFIL on 18 April 1979, these new weapons were used extensively against Palestinian targets in the Tyre area, particularly the civilian refugee camps of Rashidiyah, Burj Al-Shemali, as well as Ras Al-Ain south of Tyre, Nabatiya, Kfar Tibnit and other localities inside the UNIFIL area of deployment. Our military sources have reported that fragmentation shells have also been used since then in the shelling of the Nabatiya area.

Civilian casualties include 43 dead and hundreds wounded. Many more may lie buried beneath the rubble of their homes.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
