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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 August 1982 from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 1 August from the Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am instructed by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation to bring to your most immediate attention the gravely imperative situation in Lebanon which has escalated to extremely serious proportions. In contravention to Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982), and pursuant to our letters of 22 July, 23 July, 26 July and 27 July 1982, the Israeli aggression has resumed with renewed intensified air, land and sea bombardments against the Palestinian and Lebanese civilian populations. The incessant shelling has rendered even a preliminary casualty count impossible.

At 3.00 a.m. Beirut local time on the morning of 1 August, the Israeli forces around Beirut broke the cease-fire with attempts to advance along the southern Beirut axes. Israeli forces opened with heavy artillery and tank fire on the eastern and western runways of Beirut airport as well as the Ouzai area.

At 3.30 a.m., an Israeli advance was attempted along two axes. Under heavy artillery and rocket covering fire, Israeli units began to move forward in the direction of the eastern runway of the airport and along the Ouzai/Khalde axis. Israeli shell fire from land and sea sources hit the areas of Ouzai, the airport, the airport road, Bir Hassan, Shatila, Fakhani district, Ramlet al-Baida neighborhood, Cola and the Kuwaiti embassy area.

At 5.00 a.m., the Israeli attack against south Beirut escalated. Israeli planes began air strikes against a number of areas in Beirut. In an attempt to lessen the defiant resistance of the defenders facing the Israeli advance, the Israelis deployed more war planes for their own support missions. They also began heavy air strikes against the areas of Shatila, Ain al-Tima, Rauche and near the Jordanian embassy at Verdun.

At 7.30 a.m., indiscriminate Israeli shelling of civilian areas intensified. Attacking Israeli forces stepped up their pressure against both runways at Beirut airport. Israeli land and sea artillery shelling escalated madly against the whole area of west Beirut - Fakhani, Ramlet al-Baida, Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, UNESCO, the Arab University, the airport road, Kiskis, the Soviet embassy area, the Assyrian church area, Corniche Mazra'a, Nueiri, Verdun and Tallet Khayyatt.

At 8.45 a.m., fierce battles continued to rage for control of the Beirut airport as the Israelis threw the full weight of their war machine in the field.

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At 10.00 a.m., fierce battles continued on the main axes of the Israeli assault against west Beirut. As the airport continues to bear the main brunt of the Israeli assault, all residential areas of west Beirut continue to receive heavy, indiscriminate shelling from land, sea and air sources.

Sir, we can not impress upon the moral and humanitarian conscience the frightful suffering of the civilians with the lack of water and electricity. Hospitals, overflowing with casualties, are on the point of closure.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Zehdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer
