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ORGANIZATION DE L'UNITÉ  
AFRICAINNE

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B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

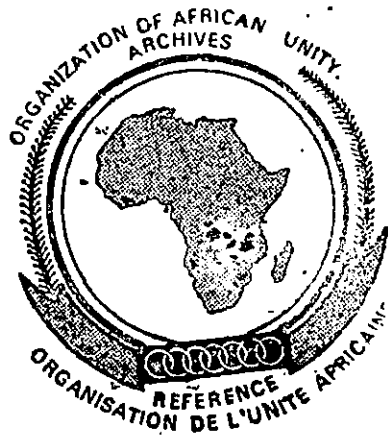
Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session

Tripoli, Libya

15 - 21 November, 1982.

CM/1193 (XXXIX) Add.1

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE  
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST



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1. Since June 1982, violence has escalated at a rate unprecedented in the history of the region because of the arrogance and intransigence of the Israeli Government on the thorny Palestinian question.

2. Mr. Begin's threats have not remained a dead letter for, he has applied Israel's theory by which, any attack on an Israeli or a non-Israeli Jew in any country is considered as a violation of the cease-fire established in July 1981. Indeed, the attempt on the life of the Israeli Ambassador to London on 3 June 1982 was the pretext for Begin to order a reprisal raid on Southern Beirut, a raid which claimed many victims, among whom, several hundred civilians.

3. Mr. Begin's Government justified its invasion of Lebanon with the pretext that the repeated and unrelenting Palestinian bombardments during the cease-fire had rendered life difficult and unbearable for the inhabitants of the Israeli-Arab border. However, a review of the situation in Southern Lebanon before the outbreak of hostilities would show that during the nine months following the imposition of a cease-fire in July 1981, the Palestinians had not engaged in any bombings.

4. As UN data would show, the Palestinians observed the cease-fire for a prolonged period while the Israeli violations gained currency. Between 28 July, 1981 and 9 May, 1982, the UN recorded 2,125 Israeli violations of Lebanon's air space, 652 violations of Lebanon's territorial waters and no violation by the Palestinians contrary to the allegations of General Sharon, Israeli Minister of Defence, who in February 1982 accused the Arabs of violating the cease-fire 60 times.

5. Never before has any operation in the region been so horrific: women and children crushed under the might of the fire-power of the Forces of the Jewish State, prisoners executed in cold blood, houses, schools, hospitals and even tombs of martyres reduced to ashes. It is today common knowledge that the number of victims of the invasion exceeds by far all the victims claimed by the 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 wars.

6. Following the announcement of the Israeli aggression, the Organisation of African Unity reacted by issuing a press release in which it vehemently condemned what it considered as premeditated murder of Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

7. Never before has the Jewish State so much defied international public opinion which has almost unanimously disapproved of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and the United Nations. The United Nations, in a very short time, has adopted a series of resolutions condemning the invasion.

8. It is worth while recalling the 25 June Resolution adopted with 127 votes for, 2 against (United States and Israel) and no abstention; a resolution which called on Israel to conform, at the latest by 27 June at 6.00 hours (Beirut time) to Security Council Resolution 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) calling for a cease-fire and the unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon.

9. The 19 August 1982 Resolution adopted by 120 votes to 2 (United States and Israel) and 20 abstentions also urged that the Palestinian people freely exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination in Palestine without foreign interference and to national independence.

"It also rejected all policies and plans aimed at resettling the Palestinians elsewhere other than their homeland.

It condemned Israel for not implementing the recent Security Council Resolutions on Lebanon and called upon the Israeli Government to implement the provisions of those Resolutions.

It further urged Israel to stop changing the physical nature, demographic composition and institutional structure of the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

10. Needless to say that Israel has not conformed to the requirements of the International Organization of which it is a member. Never before has an aggression raised so much reaction in the West, East as well as in Israel itself.

11. The Council would recall that the Soviet Government requested, in a statement published by TASS on 14 June 1982, that Israel puts an end to its insolent aggression in Lebanon and warned that USSR was prepared to do everything possible for a lasting peace to be restored to the region.

12. In the interest of peace in the Middle East, the statement went on, and in the general interests of international security, it is indispensable that effective and urgent measures are taken for an end to the aggression, a cease-fire to be established and for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory. This is what the decisions of the United Nations Security Council unanimously call for.

13. The Council would recall that France expressed its greatest concern about the renewed violence in the region. In a release issued on 14 June 1982, it solemnly called on Israel to end, without delay, the bombings and the fighting.

14. The Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Lord Belstead, on 30 June 1982, informed the House of Lords of Britain's decision to withdraw, until further notice, its agreement to authorize the export of British military hardware to Israel.

15. France joined Great Britain in that decision on 1 July 1982.

16. Council would also recall that even the United States of America, overwhelmed by the obstinacy of the Zionist State, announced their suspension of deliveries of shells to Israel. On 19 July, President Reagan decided to suspend, until further notice, the delivery of 4000 dispersion shells to Israel: suspension was to remain in force until the Pentagon and the Department of State gave President Reagan the findings of their enquiry into a possible violation of the agreement on the use of American arms by Israeli troops in Lebanon.

16. Lastly, the Council would also recall that following the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution on 25 June 1982, there was, for the first time in Tel Aviv since the Israeli aggression a demonstration against the war; a demonstration which brought together about 10,000 Israelis following an appeal by the "Committee against the war in Lebanon".

17. Mention must also be made of the efforts deployed by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to find a solution to the Palestinian drama by convening an Extra-Ordinary Session of the League's Council in Tunis on 27 June 1982 specifically on the Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

18. At that Extra-Ordinary Session, the Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Chadli Klibi delivered a moving speech in which he gave two options surmising, according to him the political synthesis and the Middle East question.

The first option was that Lebanon should be given unqualified sovereignty over the totality of its territory.

The second option was that the Palestinian resistance should be continued while it procured for itself the means of achieving its objectives.

19. Either option calls for energetic and inescapable decisions by the Arab community to ensure the invulnerability of the Lebanese territory if Lebanon's future and its responsibilities to the Palestinian people should be preserved, concluded Mr. Klibi.

20. Alas ! it would be realized that neither the reaction of the great powers and the Western powers, the United Nations Resolution nor the condemnations and appeals by OAU and the non-aligned movement have moved Israel to conform to international morale.

21. The Palestinian fighters were therefore compelled to leave Lebanon to avoid more blood-shed of innocent people and the total destruction of Beirut whose western sector to-day represents a spectacle of death.

22. It is certain, that the scattering of the Palestinian fighters in several Arab countries (Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia and the two Yemens) has not weakened the movement as expected by the Zionist State.

23. The evacuation of Palestinian fighters from Beirut had just been completed when the international community learnt with indignation, the Sabra and Shatila massacres. On the nights of 17 and 18 September 1982, several hundred Palestinian refugees, composed mainly of women, children and the aged were massacred in cold blood with the blessing of the Israeli armed forces, thus transforming the Sabra and Shatila camps (western sector of Beirut) into real extermination camps.

24. It would be recalled that the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, urged the Economic and Social Council to consider, at its first Ordinary Session in 1982, the possibility of proclaiming, as soon as possible, an International Year of Peace. In that resolution, the General Assembly declared that the third Tuesday of September, day of the Opening of its Ordinary Session, would be officially declared International Day of Peace. That day, 21 September 1982 was indeed observed as such.

25. Either by strange coincidence or cruel fate, the Sabra and Shatila drama took place just before that international day of Peace, marking thus the Zionist regime's completely different conception of peace.

Diverse reactions were noted subsequent to that odious event, even in Israel, where demonstrators demanded the resignation of Mr. Begin and General Sharon, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence respectively.

26. It should also be emphasised that relations between Egypt and Israel further strained since the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Indeed, after the Sabra and Shatila events, the Egyptian Head of State, Mr. Hosni Mubarak, speaking at the closing Session of the Third Congress of the National Democratic Party (N.D.P) on 22 September 1982, held Israel responsible for those massacres. As a sign of protest, he recalled his Ambassador in Israel to Cairo.

27. Those massacres resulted in the freezing of the camp David accords and the negotiations on the Palestinian autonomy which has already come to a dead-lock.

28. It must be mentioned here that the United Nations General Assembly, at the 32nd plenary sitting of its Seventh Emergency Special Session held on 24 September 1982, adopted Resolution ES-7/9 entitled the "Palestinian Question" in which it:

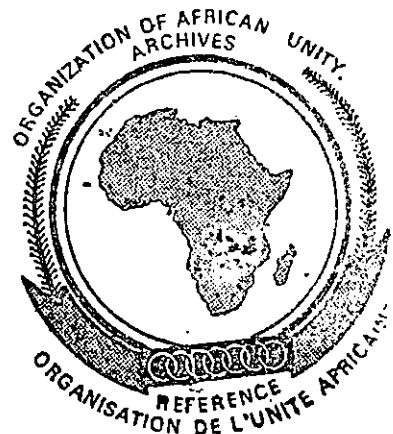
Urges the Security Council to investigate, through the means available to it, the circumstances and extent of the massacre of Palestinian and other civilians in Beirut on 17 September 1982, and to make public the report on its findings as soon as possible;

Urges the Security Council, in the event of continued failure by Israel to comply with the demands contained in Resolutions 508(1982) and 509 (1982) and the present resolution, to meet in order to consider practical ways and means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

29. It is regrettable to note that Israel, conceived of as the "Book State" has become over the years, a "sword state", worst still a "Bomb state", a "Blood thirsty state". A state whose determination to pursue its aggressive policy in the Middle East, more precisely, its policy of colonizing the occupied Arab territories, has become a major preoccupation. This, once again, is another challenge it has thrown at the international community.

30. It therefore devolves upon the international community to take necessary and effective measures to get Israel to conform to the resolutions and decision of the United Nations, OAU, and the Non-Aligned movement of the Middle East question.

31. The OAU General Secretariat, for its part, is following closely, the development in the situation in the Middle East and will report accordingly to the next Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.





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# Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East

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