



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2020
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-fifth year

Identical letters dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that, at 2205 hours on 26 November 2019, the *Med Surveyor* (International Maritime Organization No. 7629946), a Panamanian-flagged hydrographic survey vessel, was spotted in the naval operations zone of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon at a distance of 18 nautical miles from the Lebanese shore. The vessel, which came from the Israeli enemy port of Haifa, entered the exclusive economic zone of the Lebanese State at 0119 hours on 27 November 2019 and remained there until 0837 hours. It was then observed heading south at a distance of 15 nautical miles off Naqurah. Thus, the vessel had been in the exclusive economic zone of the Lebanese State (block 9) for 7 hours and 18 minutes without prior authorization from the Lebanese State, having travelled 5 nautical miles north of the line separating the exclusive economic zones of Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

Lebanon strongly condemns this fresh violation of its exclusive economic zone, which constitutes yet another flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of international law and international resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). Lebanon reiterates its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty, territory, airspace and waters in the face of any Israeli attack. Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to condemn this hostile action in the strongest possible terms and take all measures needed to deter Israel from continuing to commit serious violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon by land, sea and air.

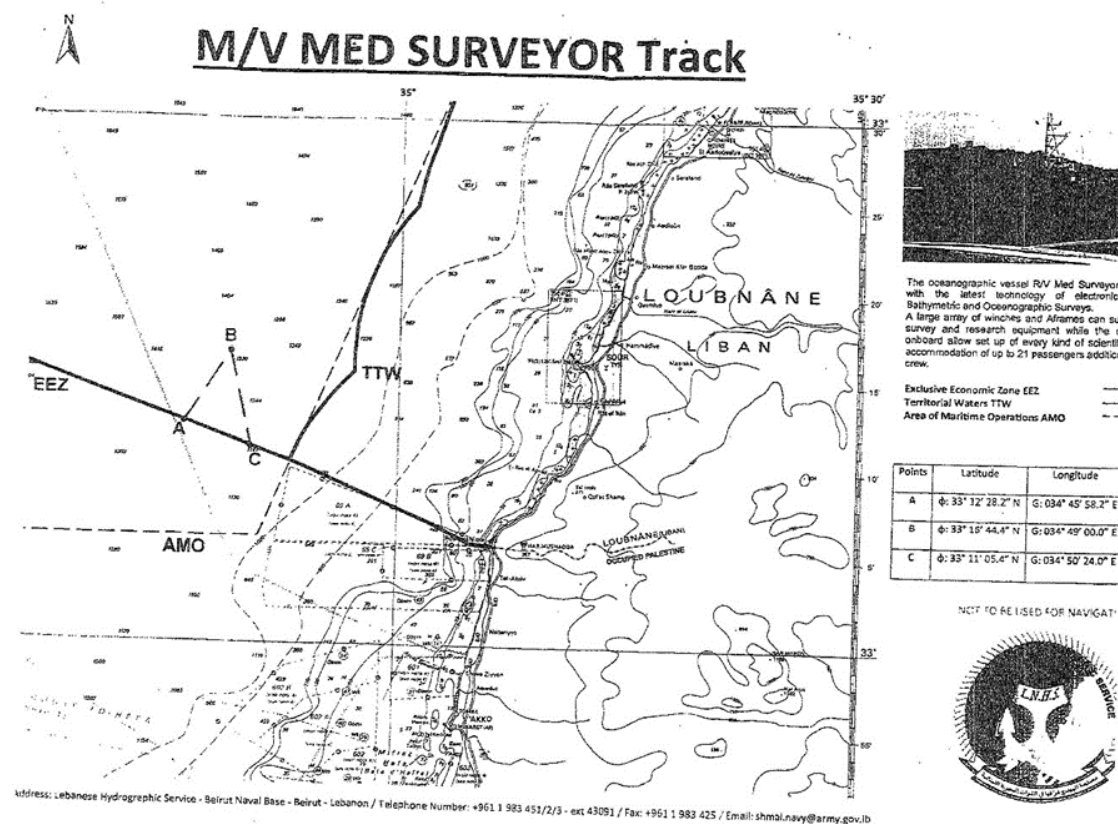
Lebanon will never cease to call upon the Security Council, and through the Council the international community, to apply the forceful pressure needed to make Israel halt its acts of aggression and comply with and implement fully and without delay all provisions of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The continued violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, occupation of Lebanese territory and commission of acts of aggression by Israel constitute a blatant violation of international law and internationally authoritative resolutions, and threaten regional and international security and peace.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council



Annex II to the identical letters dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Article 56

Rights, jurisdiction and duties of the coastal State in the exclusive economic zone

1. In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has:

(a) sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;

(b) jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention with regard to:

- (i) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;
- (ii) marine scientific research;
- (iii) the protection and preservation of the marine environment;
- (c) other rights and duties provided for in this Convention.

2. In exercising its rights and performing its duties under this Convention in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have due regard to the rights and duties of other States and shall act in a manner compatible with the provisions of this Convention.

3. The rights set out in this article with respect to the seabed and subsoil shall be exercised in accordance with Part VI.

Article 60

Artificial islands, installations and structures in the exclusive economic zone

1. In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have the exclusive right to construct and to authorize and regulate the construction, operation and use of:

- (a) artificial islands;
- (b) installations and structures for the purposes provided for in article 56 and other economic purposes;
- (c) installations and structures which may interfere with the exercise of the rights of the coastal State in the zone.

2. The coastal State shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such artificial islands, installations and structures, including jurisdiction with regard to customs, fiscal, health, safety and immigration laws and regulations.

3. Due notice must be given of the construction of such artificial islands, installations or structures, and permanent means for giving warning of their presence must be maintained. Any installations or structures which are abandoned or disused shall be removed to ensure safety of navigation, taking into account any generally accepted international standards established in this regard by the competent international organization. Such removal shall also have due regard to fishing, the protection of the marine environment and the rights and duties of other States.

Appropriate publicity shall be given to the depth, position and dimensions of any installations or structures not entirely removed.

4. The coastal State may, where necessary, establish reasonable safety zones around such artificial islands, installations and structures in which it may take appropriate measures to ensure the safety both of navigation and of the artificial islands, installations and structures.

5. The breadth of the safety zones shall be determined by the coastal State, taking into account applicable international standards. Such zones shall be designed to ensure that they are reasonably related to the nature and function of the artificial islands, installations or structures, and shall not exceed a distance of 500 metres around them, measured from each point of their outer edge, except as authorized by generally accepted international standards or as recommended by the competent international organization. Due notice shall be given of the extent of safety zones.

6. All ships must respect these safety zones and shall comply with generally accepted international standards regarding navigation in the vicinity of artificial islands, installations, structures and safety zones.

7. Artificial islands, installations and structures and the safety zones around them may not be established where interference may be caused to the use of recognized sea lanes essential to international navigation.

8. Artificial islands, installations and structures do not possess the status of islands. They have no territorial sea of their own, and their presence does not affect the delimitation of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone or the continental shelf.
