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2144th MEETING

Held in New York on Tuesday, 15 May 1979, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. Vasco FUTSCHER PEREIRA (Portugal).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Gabon, Jamaica, Kuwait, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zambia.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/2144)

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. The situation in the Middle East:
Letter dated 7 May 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/13301)

The meeting was called to order at 5.25 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

1. The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding with the business before the Council this evening, I should like to take this opportunity to express to Ambassador Ålgård of Norway on behalf of all members of the Council our very sincere appreciation for the most capable and efficient manner in which he served as President of the Council during the month of April. Only four formal meetings of the Council were held during that month and, although they were all unusually brief, the President of the Security Council was, during the full month, in constant touch with all members of the Council and with parties interested in a variety of delicate and important issues. His dedication, his statesmanship and the sense of order which he brought to bear were highly appreciated by us all.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East:

Letter dated 7 May 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/13301)

2. The PRESIDENT: As a result of the consultations held with members of the Council, I should like now to make the

following statement in my capacity as President of the Council:

"Since the President's statement was read out to the Council on 26 April 1979 [2141st meeting], grave events have occurred in Southern Lebanon which have merely served to show the precarious and fragile situation in that area. That the situation is not even worse is due largely to the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, whose forces are trying to fulfil their mandate in extremely difficult conditions and with an exemplary dedication admired by us all. This was particularly underlined in the report of the Secretary-General to the Council of 9 May 1979, contained in document S/13308.

"In view of the gravity of these events the Government of Lebanon has decided to request the Council to give further consideration to the situation and has accordingly addressed to me the letter contained in document S/13301.

"Members have been informed of the steps taken in recent days under the auspices of the Council to secure a rapid improvement in that situation. These efforts seem to have produced some results. Talks have resumed between the representatives of the United Nations and the Government of Israel on various points that it is essential to try to settle if the Force is to carry out its mandate successfully.

"These talks must be pursued with perseverance but in an atmosphere conducive to the full implementation of resolutions 425 (1978) and 444 (1979).

"As it has done since the events that led to the establishment of the Force, the Council is following the situation with the deepest attention and concern.

"I am confident that the Council will be meeting at an early date to debate this question and to take any action warranted by developments in the situation.

"In the absence of any objections to this line of action, the President of the Council will proceed with his present diplomatic efforts."

3. As no member of the Council wishes to speak, I propose to adjourn this meeting. The Council will remain seized of the question before it and will meet again whenever further consideration appears to be necessary.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

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