



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

5th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Regarding Follow-up to the
Commission of Inquiry Report on Lebanon

13 June 2007

Mr. President,

I do not have the intention of presenting a detailed reaction to the report just presented. I would note for the record, though, that if one went through the report, and replaced the word "Lebanon" with the words "Northern Israel," one would have a fairly accurate description of what Israel faced—and still faces—in the wake of last summer's conflict. The one obvious difference, of course, is that there was no Commission of Inquiry convened by the Council to determine the best way to assist Israel, a fact which sweeps away the principle of equal treatment for everyone.

Mr. President,

The report lacks an essential element in that it makes no mention of the reasons behind the conflict, makes no mention of Hizbollah's intentional aggression, as admitted by its own leader, and which triggered the hostilities. I make mention of this today only to avoid history repeating itself and to warn the members of the Council about the situation which faces our region, only one year after the war.

Security Council Resolution 1701 brought the redeployment of the Lebanese Army in South Lebanon for the first time in many years. The army is being assisted by nearly 5,000 UNIFIL peacekeepers. Yet today, this resolution is

not fully implemented. I can guarantee to this Council, without any fear of contradiction, that Hizbollah has recouped all of its military capacity north and south of the Litani River. Hizbollah is in possession of close to 20,000 missiles, provided by external actors, some with long-range capabilities, such as the *Fatah 110*. The UN has recently expressed again its concerns regarding arms smuggling into Southern Lebanon from neighboring countries, and yet today, ammunition and short and mid-range missiles are all hidden in underground bunkers built in the courtyards of civilian buildings. All of this fatal and sophisticated weaponry is targeted at Israel.

Mr. President,

Another omission in the Report is the fate of the abducted servicemen by Hizbollah. Over the last year, in continuing violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, Hizbollah has blocked the International Red Cross's access to captured Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, depriving their families of any sign that their sons are still alive. The president of International Red Cross, recently reconfirmed in an interview that both states and non-state actors must comply with rules of international humanitarian law, and Hizbollah's refusal to conform to these standards is distressing, and shows the inhumane face of this organization. The two servicemen should be released and returned to their families immediately.

Mr. President,

The Lebanese government and its army were called upon to dismantle Hizbollah's armaments and bring the region into an era of quietude and stability. It is the responsibility of the Lebanese government to loudly ring the alarm and call the attention of the international community to the non-implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 being perpetuated by Hizbollah and the countries who support it.

Thank You.