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EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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6 June 1982

Dear Mr. President:

I have been asked by Prime Minister Begin to transmit to you the following message:

"Dear Mr. President, Dear Friend,

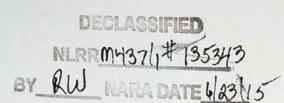
I thank you for your letter of June 4. Your words of sympathy, friendship and understanding touched me deeply.

I am in permanent contact with the surgeon -- a wonderful man -- who operated on Ambassador Argov. His last call from London came yesterday evening; the good doctor informed me that he still cannot make a definite prognosis. It seems already clear, however, that if the Ambassador survives the assassination attempt he will be left paralyzed. Nothing can be determined as yet about how his intellectual faculties will function.

Very early this morning, Mr. President, I received your second letter dated June 6 for which I thank you. I feel it my duty, in answering it, to describe to you the real situation.

For the last seventy-two hours, twenty-three of our towns, townships and villages in Galilee have been under the constant shelling of Soviet-supplied heavy artillery and katyusha rockets by the "PLO" terrorists. Tens of thousands of men women and children remain day and night in shelters. We have suffered casualties. The terrorists are aiming their guns exclusively at the civilian population. There are many military targets in the area; these are completely "immune". The purpose of the enemy is to kill -- to kill Jews, men, women and children. Is there a nation in the world that would tolerate such a situation which, after the cessation of hostilities agreement, has repeated itself time and again?

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## EMBASSY OF ISRAEL WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The question is clearly answered in the most recent action of the United Kingdom which is now waging a full-fledged war eight thousand miles from its shores in the name of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Mr. President, the bloodthirsty aggressor against us is on our doorstep. Do we not have "the inherent right to self-defense?" Does not Article 51 of the Charter apply to us? Is the Jewish State an exception to all the rules applying to all other nations? The answer to these questions is enshrined in the questions themselves.

Mr. President, the Government of Israel decided to do its best to put an end to this intolerable situation. The army has been instructed to push back the terrorists to a distance of forty kilometers to the north so that all our civilians in the region of Galilee will be set free of the permanent threat to their lives.

We do not covet one inch of Lebanese territory. We wish to sign a peace treaty with a free, independent Lebanon that will preserve its territorial integrity. But it is our duty to make sure that our citizens and their families can live peacefully and carry on their daily lives without a lurking permanent threat of sudden death.

I do hope, Mr. President, that you will take into consideration the unique situation in which we find ourselves as a result of the repeated aggression against us perpetrated by a Soviet-promoted terrorist organization bent on shedding the blood of our people in the Land and abroad.

We shall do our sacred duty. So help us God.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

(sd.) Menachem"

Sincerely,

Moshe Arens Ambassador

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.