



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10017-2905

www.greeceun.org

Security Council

5297th Meeting

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**Statement by
Petros G. Molyviatis
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic**

**NEW YORK
Monday, October 31, 2005**

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

The 14 February 2005 terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, which took the life of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and others and caused injuries to dozens of people shook the international community and threatened to destabilize Lebanon at the difficult and sensitive transitional period it was going through.

The international community reacted with a strong and unequivocal condemnation and a firm resolve that the perpetrators of this heinous act be found and brought to justice.

Mr. President,

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats against peace, freedom and human dignity. Acts of terrorism are under no circumstances justifiable on any ground, be it political, religious or philosophical. Those committing these horrific acts must be brought to justice. The Security Council has repeatedly shown its determination to eradicate this scourge of our times.

By unanimously adopting, on 7 April 2005, Resolution 1595, the Security Council did exactly that. It sent a message, in no uncertain terms, that those responsible for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri have to be identified and held accountable. This has been the Council's common objective then. This continuous to be our common goal now.

The resolution we have just adopted does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation nor does it assign blame on alleged suspects. It does not have a punitive character, but a supportive one. It is primarily meant to assist, and equip with the necessary tools, the International Investigative Commission the Security Council itself has established, so that it will be able to fulfill its mandate and complete its mission.

The Council reiterates its demand for the full and unconditional cooperation of all those involved in this terrorist act with the International

Investigative Commission and it wants to guarantee that this message is heard clear and loud.

Based on recent statements made by the Syrian Government, we hope that Syria will cooperate fully and unconditionally with the International Investigative Commission in order to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist act, thus facilitating peaceful settlement of the issue and opening a new chapter in its relations with Lebanon.

Mr. President,

In the context of these considerations, when voting today, our main concern and preoccupation was focused on two issues:

- (a) the unity of the Security Council in dealing with an extremely sensitive issue with far reaching effects, and
- (b) the need to maintain lasting peace and stability in the broader region.

It is important that the Council stands together in dealing with issues it has itself identified as constituting a threat to international peace and security. This preserves the integrity of the Council and gives moral weight to the message.

We believe that the full implementation of this resolution will not only do justice but will also preserve the unity and political independence of Lebanon and, therefore, help restore security and stability in the Greater Middle East area.

Thank you Mr. President.