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The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations, and wishes to refer to the Lebanese Note Verbale regarding the alleged entry of the M/V Med Surveyor into Lebanese Exclusive Economic Zone, submitted on January 24, 2020 (A/74/665).

Notwithstanding the fact that the Lebanese Note refers to a Panamanian flagged vessel, for the sake of clarity Israel rejects the claims that the vessel has at any point violated any Lebanese rights, and also rejects the manifestly unfounded claim regarding a violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The spokesperson of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was cited as stating that the peacekeeping force has no evidence to suggest that a ship has violated Lebanese waters.

The M/V Med Surveyor conducted survey operations in Israeli maritime areas, when on 26 November 2019 a storm that formed in the area forced the vessel to relocate in order to ensure its safety and the safety of its crew. As a result of the storm, it drifted north of its position. At no point has there been any violation of international law, as the vessel clearly exercised its freedom of navigation, a fundamental principle of international law.

The Permanent Mission of Israel would be grateful if the Note Verbale was circulated amongst States and published on the Ocean & Law of the Sea UN website under the countries section of the database on Maritime Space: Maritime Zones and Maritime Delimitation.

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Secretary General the assurances of its highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General  
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New York

