Israel/Lebanon 24 August

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service, announced the arrest of four Arab Israelis suspected of smuggling “a large number of quality weapons”, including Iranian-made explosives, asserting that “Hizbollah worked to recruit and operate an infrastructure of smugglers in Israel for the purpose of distributing unusual illegal weapons to various parties, including criminal elements”. A senior official contended that “this affair once again illustrates the efforts of terror elements from Hizbollah and Iran to exploit the Arab citizens of Israel for activities against the state”.

Syria 23 August

Iran’s UN envoy told the Security Council that “Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity persistently endure grave violations, stemming from both the occupation of certain areas by illegal foreign forces and aggressions by the Israeli regime and terrorist groups”. He went on to call “for the complete withdrawal of all illegal foreign military forces from Syrian territory”, and maintained that “there is no other alternative to pursuing a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned settlement with UN assistance”.

Tehran/Lebanon 23 August

A senior advisor to Iran’s Supreme Leader spoke with senior Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizbollah officials, congratulating them on what he described as their “recent victories” against Israel, and emphasising that “the outcome of the unity [between the Palestinian groups and Hizbollah] will be ultimate victory”.