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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS  
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(For the period 19 January to 12 July 1983)

Introduction

1. In its resolution 529 (1983) of 18 January 1983, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further interim period of six months, until 19 July 1983. The Council called upon all parties concerned to co-operate with UNIFIL for the full implementation of the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the progress made in that respect.
2. The present report contains an account of developments relating to UNIFIL since the adoption of resolution 529 (1983).

Organization of the Force

3. As of 30 June 1983, the composition of UNIFIL was as follows:

Infantry battalions

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Fiji        | 625 |
| Finland     | 485 |
| France      | 147 |
| Ghana       | 550 |
| Ireland     | 667 |
| Netherlands | 805 |
| Norway      | 645 |
| Senegal     | 561 |

Headquarters camp command

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Ghana   | 153 |
| Ireland | 80  |

Logistic units

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| France | 782          |
| Italy  | 42           |
| Norway | 202          |
| Sweden | 144          |
| Total  | <u>5 888</u> |

In addition to the above personnel, UNIFIL was assisted by 69 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), organized as Observer Group Lebanon (OGL). Those unarmed observers were under the operational control of the Commander of UNIFIL, Lieutenant-General William Callaghan.

4. As previously indicated (see S/15557, para. 4), the Government of Nigeria decided to discontinue its participation in UNIFIL after the expiration of the previous mandate on 19 January 1983. The repatriation of the Nigerian contingent was completed by 26 January 1983. The French infantry battalion remained at reduced strength, in accordance with the temporary arrangement whereby the greater part of the battalion was released to the French authorities (see S/15455, para. 4).

5. Following the departure of the Nigerian battalion, a readjustment of the areas of responsibility of various units took place. The areas held by the Fijian, Finnish, Irish and Senegalese battalions were enlarged, and the reduced French infantry unit was deployed in the central sector of the area of operation of UNIFIL. The deployment of UNIFIL as of 30 June 1983 is shown on the annexed map.

6. The military observers of UNTSO continued to man the five observation posts along the armistice demarcation line and to maintain teams at Tyre, Metulla and Chateau de Beaufort. They also operated four mobile teams.

7. The Lebanese Internal Security Forces continued to co-operate with UNIFIL in maintaining order in its area of operation. In early June, the strength of the Lebanese army unit serving with UNIFIL was temporarily reduced, following the transfer to Beirut of the greater part of the unit for training purposes. The total number of Lebanese army personnel remaining with UNIFIL at present is 166 all ranks.

8. Logistic support for UNIFIL continued to be provided by the French logistic component, the Norwegian maintenance unit, the Ghanaian engineer unit, the Swedish medical company and the Italian helicopter wing. Although UNIFIL continued to be denied access to Tyre and Sidon as well as to all areas adjacent to the coastal road, its convoys enjoyed a fair degree of freedom of movement on the axis between

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Naqoura and Beirut. All rotations were carried out through the Beirut international airport, and current supplies, particularly fresh food, petrol, oil, lubricants and gas, were again procured, mostly from sources in Lebanon. Telephone, radio and teleprinter communications between headquarters in Naqoura and Beirut were back to normal. The Italian helicopter wing continued to play an important logistical role, although flight clearances, as previously reported, were often denied by the Israeli military authorities on the grounds that they would interfere with activities of the Israel Air Force.

9. In addition to its other tasks, the French engineer company demolished or defused some 80 mortar and heavy artillery shells, about 400 cluster bombs and 1,200 anti-personnel mines as well as a large quantity of small ammunition.

10. During the period under review, four members of the Force lost their lives. One Fijian soldier was shot in an incident described in paragraph 14 below; the others died as a result of accidents or from natural causes. Since the establishment of UNIFIL in 1978, 93 members of the Force have died, 41 of them as a result of firing and mine explosions, 40 in accidents and 12 from natural causes. Some 120 have been wounded in armed clashes, shellings and mine explosions.

11. The discipline and bearing of the members of UNIFIL as well as of the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force were of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, their commanders and their countries.

#### Situation in southern Lebanon and activities of UNIFIL

12. During the reporting period, the UNIFIL area was generally quiet. UNIFIL continued to operate its check-points and to patrol its area of deployment, with a view to contributing to the maintenance of order and ensuring the security of the local population. The Force also co-operated with the Lebanese authorities and United Nations agencies in extending humanitarian assistance to the population.

13. The presence of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in the UNIFIL area remained at approximately battalion strength. Those forces increased their activities as regards patrols and the erection of temporary roadblocks as well as searches of houses and the detention of local inhabitants for security reasons.

14. During the period under review, IDF continued to recruit and arm selected villagers in the UNIFIL area. They also occasionally set up joint check-points with them. UNIFIL continued to monitor and, whenever possible, contain the activities of those irregulars. A number of incidents occurred at UNIFIL check-points when armed irregulars refused to submit to searches of their vehicle or to surrender their weapons. In some cases, after having been turned away, they entered the area under escort of Israeli troops. In other cases, they resorted to threats and even fired close to UNIFIL personnel. One particularly serious incident took place on 29 May 1983 at check-point I-6. After a leader of the irregulars refused to have his car searched and was turned back, he came back with Israeli soldiers and entered the UNIFIL area. Shortly thereafter, Fijian troops came under fire from his house, and, in the ensuing exchange, a Fijian soldier was killed.

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15. Beginning in the latter part of January, Israeli personnel approached local leaders, with a view to setting up so-called "village committees" which would, among other things, be responsible for levying taxes and financing the irregulars armed by IDF. Local leaders opposed those efforts, and a number of them turned to UNIFIL, seeking its assistance against what they considered undue pressure by the occupying force. UNIFIL kept the Lebanese Government fully informed of such developments and also made repeated representations to the Israeli authorities about the arming of irregulars and the risk of incidents arising from the irresponsible behaviour of the latter.

16. I regret to report that on 30 March 1983, a Lebanese civilian was killed by a UNIFIL soldier in an incident at check-point 1-11. A full investigation was launched immediately after the incident, and all appropriate measures were taken to defuse the tension which resulted from that tragic event.

17. On 10 June 1983, three Israeli soldiers were killed when their patrol was ambushed in a wooded area west of Dayr Qanun in the north-western sector of the UNIFIL area of operation. Israeli troops immediately sealed off the area, in particular, the village of Dayr Qanun, which remained isolated for nearly a week. In that connection, the de facto forces entered the village with two tanks and three armoured personnel carriers and established a position which has remained there despite UNIFIL efforts to have it removed.

18. There were also a few incidents at UNIFIL check-points arising from provocative behaviour of Israeli soldiers, sometimes in civilian clothes. In other incidents, smoke grenades were thrown at a UNIFIL guardhouse and shots were fired close to UNIFIL personnel from passing Israeli military vehicles.

19. There were some incidents, particularly after mid-May, in connection with attempts by the de facto forces to enter the UNIFIL area with their weapons. On two such occasions, on 26 May and 18 June 1983, Dutch soldiers at check-point 7-13 B were held hostage for a while. Those incidents were resolved with the assistance of IDF. During the reporting period, three UNIFIL vehicles were taken at gunpoint by uniformed personnel in the enclave controlled by the de facto forces. Two of those vehicles have not so far been returned.

20. UNIFIL continued its co-operation with the Lebanese authorities as well as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in extending assistance to the local population, particularly in the implementation of vaccination programmes, health and hygiene surveys and training activities. The Swedish medical company and the medical teams of the battalions continued to provide medical assistance to Lebanese civilians, often with the support of the Italian helicopter wing. During the reporting period, the UNIFIL hospital in Naqoura treated more than 4,000 patients. The Israeli authorities continued to prevent UNIFIL from extending humanitarian assistance outside its area of operation, although the competent Lebanese authorities had requested such assistance.

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21. Throughout the period, the Commander of UNIFIL and his senior civilian and military staff maintained close contact with the Government of Lebanon and the Lebanese regional authorities. They also maintained contact with the Israeli authorities on matters affecting the functioning of the Force.

#### Financial aspects

22. By its resolution 37/127 A of 17 December 1982, the General Assembly, among other things, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNIFIL at a rate not to exceed \$15,229,666 gross (\$15,087,833 net) per month for the period from 19 January 1983 to 18 December 1983, inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of three months authorized under its resolution 523 (1982), subject to obtaining the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the actual level of commitments to be entered into for each mandate period that might be approved subsequent to 19 January 1983. Accordingly, should the Security Council renew the UNIFIL mandate beyond 19 July 1983, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNIFIL during the period of extension will be within the commitment authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/127 A, assuming continuance of the Force's existing strength and responsibilities.

#### Observations

23. During the period under review, UNIFIL continued to carry out the interim tasks laid down by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Security Council after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. It continued to exert its best efforts to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the local population in its area of deployment and to prevent activities which were likely to militate against a peaceful atmosphere or to hamper the restoration of the authority of the Lebanese Government in the area.

24. In the circumstances resulting from the invasion, the capability of UNIFIL to achieve those objectives was necessarily contingent upon the degree of the co-operation received from the Israeli authorities, who, as the occupying Power, were in control of the area. The difficulties encountered by UNIFIL have been described earlier in the present report. A major problem faced by UNIFIL during the reporting period was the increased activities of the local groups armed and uniformed by the Israeli forces. The activities of those groups, which are not authorized by the Lebanese Government, led to a number of incidents involving UNIFIL, the worst of which resulted in the tragic death of a Fijian soldier on 29 May.

25. Despite the difficulties encountered by the Force, its presence in southern Lebanon was generally recognized as an important element of stability in southern Lebanon. The situation in its area of deployment was comparatively less tense and disturbed than elsewhere in the region, and the population of the area was on the increase and its economy prospering. It is evident that the local inhabitants and their leaders value the protection and stability which the presence of UNIFIL

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affords them. However, in the existing circumstances, the activities of UNIFIL are inevitably in the nature of a holding action, pending further developments and decisions of the Security Council.

26. As the Permanent Representative of Lebanon has indicated to the President of the Security Council in his letter of 5 July 1983 (S/15868), the Government of Lebanon has decided to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a further interim period of three months on the terms defined in resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and the relevant decisions of the Security Council.

27. As I have already stated, UNIFIL remains an important element of stability in southern Lebanon under the prevailing conditions. Although the circumstances under which the Force was established have been radically altered as a result of the Israeli invasion, the task of assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in southern Lebanon remains especially relevant in the present situation. A withdrawal of UNIFIL from its area of operation before the Lebanese Government is in a position to assume effective control of the area with its national army and internal security forces would unquestionably be a serious blow to the prospect of an early restoration of the authority of the Lebanese Government in southern Lebanon as well as to the welfare of the inhabitants of the UNIFIL area of deployment. For these reasons, I consider it essential that the mandate of UNIFIL should once again be extended on an interim basis, bearing in mind the request for extension of the Lebanese Government.

28. In recommending a further extension of UNIFIL, I wish to express the earnest hope that if it is granted by the Security Council, all concerned will give their complete co-operation to the Force, in order to enable it to carry out fully the tasks entrusted to it by the Council. I must also once again draw the Security Council's attention to the financial difficulties faced by the Force. There is, as of the beginning of July 1983, an accumulated shortfall in the UNIFIL Special Account of some \$168.5 million. As a result, the Organization is falling far behind in the reimbursement of the troop-contributing countries, thus placing an unfair and increasingly heavy burden on them, particularly on the less wealthy ones. I am extremely concerned about this state of affairs for the above-mentioned reason and also because it could jeopardize the functioning of this important operation. Therefore, I must strongly appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments without delay. I would like also to appeal to the Governments of the more developed countries to consider making available, as a practical measure, voluntary contributions to the UNIFIL Suspense Account, to be used for the reimbursement of Governments contributing troops, equipment and supplies to UNIFIL.

29. In concluding this report, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the troop-contributing countries for their steadfast and generous support of the Force. I also wish to pay tribute to the Commander of UNIFIL, Lieutenant-General

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William Callaghan, and his staff, civilian and military, and to the officers and men of UNIFIL as well as to the UNTSO military observers assigned to the area. They have performed their tasks with exemplary dedication and courage in extremely difficult circumstances.

