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

(for the period 23 January 1993-20 July 1993)

## INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 803 (1993) of 28 January 1993, 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 31 July 1993. The Council also reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries; reemphasized the terms of reference and general guidelines of the Force as stated in the report of the Secretary-General of 19 March 1978, 1/ approved by the Council in its resolution 426 (1978); called upon all parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate; and reiterated that UNIFIL should fully implement its mandate as defined in Council resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978) and all other relevant resolutions. The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned with the implementation of the resolution and to report to the Council.

## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE FORCE

2. As of July 1993, the composition of UNIFIL was as follows:

Military personnel

Fiji	HQ UNIFIL	10	
	Infantry battalion	598	
	Force Mobile Reserve	34	
	Military police	<u>8</u>	650
Finland	HQ UNIFIL	12	
	Infantry battalion	480	
	Force Mobile Reserve	20	
	Military police	<u>9</u>	521

France	HQ UNIFIL	14	
	Composite battalion (maintenance company, defence company, armoured escort company)	416	
	Military police	10	
	Camp command	<u>1</u>	441
Ghana	HQ UNIFIL	23	
	Infantry battalion (including engineer company)	721	
	Force Mobile Reserve	36	
	Military police	7	
	Camp command	<u>2</u>	789
Ireland	HQ UNIFIL	33	
	Infantry battalion	584	
	HQ camp command	31	
	Force Mobile Reserve	17	
	Military police	<u>12</u>	677
Italy	HQ UNIFIL	4	
	Helicopter unit	43	
	Military police	<u>2</u>	49
Nepal	HQ UNIFIL	9	
	Infantry battalion	678	
	Force Mobile Reserve	29	
	Military police	<u>5</u>	721
Norway	HQ UNIFIL	21	
	Infantry battalion	594	
	Maintenance company	162	
	Force Mobile Reserve	36	
	Military police	<u>16</u>	829
Poland	HQ UNIFIL	5	
	UNIFIL hospital	71	
	Military police	<u>2</u>	78
Sweden	HQ UNIFIL	16	
	Logistic battalion	341	
	Engineer company	123	
	Force Mobile Reserve	4	
	Military police	<u>8</u>	<u>492</u>
Total UNIFIL			<u>5 247</u>

The deployment of UNIFIL as of July 1993 is shown on the map attached to this report.

3. Major-General Trond Furuhoide of Norway took over as Commander of UNIFIL from Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden on 22 February 1993.

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4. Fifty-seven military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted UNIFIL in the performance of its tasks. These unarmed officers are organized as Observer Group Lebanon and are under the operational control of the Force Commander of UNIFIL. They man the five observation posts along the Lebanese side of the Israel-Lebanon armistice demarcation line. They also operate five mobile teams in that part of the area of operation which is controlled by Israel. Two military observers are assigned to UNIFIL headquarters.

5. Logistic support for UNIFIL was provided by the Swedish logistic battalion, elements of the French composite battalion, the Norwegian maintenance company, the Swedish engineer company, the Ghanaian engineer company, the Polish medical unit, the Italian helicopter unit and by some sections of the civilian staff, especially in the areas of communications and vehicle maintenance. UNIFIL employed 526 civilian staff, of whom 161 were recruited internationally and 365 locally.

6. The Force Mobile Reserve, a composite mechanized company, currently consisting of elements from seven contingents (Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Nepal, Norway and Sweden), reinforced UNIFIL's battalions during rotations and when serious incidents occurred. One platoon of the Force Mobile Reserve is permanently deployed in the Nepalese battalion sector.

7. I regret to report that one Nepalese soldier lost his life as a result of firing and an Irish soldier died of natural causes. Two others suffered injuries as a result of firing or explosions. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 192 military members of the Force have died, 73 as a result of firing or by mine or bomb explosions, 79 in accidents and 40 from other causes. Two hundred and ninety-four have been wounded by firing or by mine or bomb explosions.

8. UNIFIL continued its programme of works at positions throughout its area of deployment in order to improve its observation capabilities and the protection of its personnel. Minor adjustments were made to the boundaries of the battalion sectors and a number of positions were moved in accordance with operational requirements. In mid-February, the headquarters of the Ghanaian battalion was moved from Marakah to Al Qaranis near Bir as Sanasil. Work continued on the new Irish battalion headquarters near Tibnin.

9. UNIFIL continued to have difficulties in meeting its requirements of land and premises for its checkpoints, observation posts and other installations. The main reason for this is that for several years the Government of Lebanon has failed to reimburse the owners of the properties being used by UNIFIL. The last time such payments were made was in 1987. The Lebanese authorities are currently undertaking a survey of the properties used by UNIFIL, with a view to determining the level of reimbursement.

10. UNIFIL continued discussions with the Lebanese military authorities, concerning arrangements for the hand-over to the Lebanese army of certain parts of the Ghanaian battalion sector of UNIFIL's area of operation. As a follow-up to such a hand-over in 1992, an area comprising the villages of Marakah, Jinnata and Yanuh, including the former Ghanaian battalion headquarters at Marakah, was handed over to the Lebanese Army on 16 February 1993.

11. UNIFIL maintained close contact with the Lebanese authorities on matters of mutual concern. Those authorities rendered important assistance to UNIFIL in connection with the resumption of troop rotations through Beirut. Liaison and communications with the Lebanese army were further improved, and UNIFIL cooperated closely with the Lebanese gendarmerie on matters pertaining to the maintenance of law and order in the area of operation.

## II. SITUATION IN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATION

12. Israel continued to control in southern Lebanon an area manned by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the de facto forces (DFF), the so-called "South Lebanon Army" ("SLA"). The boundaries of the Israeli-controlled area (ICA) have not been clearly defined but are determined de facto by the forward positions of IDF/DFF. It includes territory adjacent to the armistice demarcation line, parts of the Fijian, Nepalese, Irish, Ghanaian and Finnish battalion sectors and the entire Norwegian battalion sector, as well as sizeable areas to the north of UNIFIL's area of operation. Within the UNIFIL area of operation, IDF and DFF maintained 72 military positions, as shown on the attached map. The map also indicates where ICA extends beyond the limits of UNIFIL's area of operation.

13. Within the ICA, Israel maintained, in addition to the de facto forces, a civil administration and a security service. Movement between the ICA and the rest of Lebanon was strictly controlled and the ICA remained economically dependent on Israel. An estimated 3,000 jobs in Israel were held by Lebanese from the ICA. Access to such jobs was controlled by DFF and the security services. Complaints were received from several villages in the ICA about forced recruitment to the de facto forces.

14. UNIFIL continued to oppose attempts by armed elements to enter or operate within its area of deployment. At times, this led to friction at UNIFIL's checkpoints, followed by harassment and threats directed at members of the Force. Such cases were generally resolved through negotiations. However, the number of dangerous confrontations between armed elements and UNIFIL increased. The following are the more significant incidents which occurred: on 27 January, a UNIFIL patrol, which found two Sagger anti-tank missiles south-east of position 8-14B, was confronted by a group of armed elements who demanded that the patrol hand over the missiles to them. A tense situation developed, but after negotiation the armed elements left the area. On 21 February, armed elements fired 34 rounds at a UNIFIL patrol south of position 1-23. On 26 February, approximately 30 armed elements surrounded a temporary checkpoint south-east of position 5-4 and threatened its personnel. On 1 March, a roadside bomb was detonated north-east of position 1-23 as a UNIFIL patrol was passing by. On 3 April, approximately 20 armed elements surrounded position 5-5 and threatened its personnel. On 9 April, armed elements forced their way into position 5-15; when the Nepalese battalion's reserve was deployed in support it came under small arms fire. On 8 May, UNIFIL patrols were twice fired at by armed elements in the Finnish battalion sector. On the same day, seven armed elements forced their way through checkpoint 5-3. On 16 June, a UNIFIL patrol came across a booby trap in the area of position 5-11B, on a road frequently patrolled by UNIFIL. On 20 June, a UNIFIL armoured personnel carrier was fired at by armed elements in the area west of position 5-4. In the night of 20 to 21 June, the commander of a Fijian company and his escort of three soldiers were

fired upon by armed elements west of checkpoint 1-6. One soldier was wounded and the officer was taken prisoner. He was later released.

15. During the period under review, UNIFIL recorded 63 operations against IDF/DFF by armed elements who have proclaimed their resistance against Israeli occupation (4 in the latter part of January, 11 in February, 4 in March, 7 in April, 15 in May, and 22 in June). This represents an increase of 44 compared to the previous reporting period. There were also many reports of attacks against IDF/DFF positions north of the Litani River. In their operations, the armed elements employed roadside bombs, rockets, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles. Most of the rockets impacted in the ICA, while a smaller number of impacts was reported from northern Israel.

16. In responding to such attacks or initiating action themselves, IDF/DFF employed artillery, mortars, tanks and aircraft. Often, they fired into villages, causing civilian casualties. Qabrikha (1 March, 13 April, 24 April, 13 May, 25 May, 16 June), Shaqra (16 February, 24 April, 29 June), Yatar (22 February, 12 April, 20 June), Majdal Silm (13 April, 11 June), Al Qantarrah (1 April, 13 May), Ghanduriyah (13 April), Ayta Az Zutt (12 April, 13 June), Haddatah (12 April, 10 June, 13 June), Jibil Al Butm (20 June), Dahr al Baydar (29 June) and Frun (13 May), were targets of such firing. UNIFIL recorded over 7,900 artillery, mortar and tank rounds fired by IDF/DFF, an increase of about 2,000 rounds over the previous reporting period.

17. On 22 February, a Nepalese soldier was killed and another wounded inside UNIFIL position 5-12A, as a result of mortar fire from an IDF/DFF position in the ICA. This incident was strongly protested to the Israeli authorities. Altogether, there were 168 instances of firing at or close to UNIFIL positions. The Irish and Finnish battalion sectors accounted for more than 70 per cent of this firing, which has been the subject of frequent protests to the Israeli authorities.

18. As in the past, UNIFIL detonated mines, roadside bombs and unexploded remnants of war, and dismantled ordnance of various types in the area of deployment. Forty-four controlled explosions were carried out.

19. UNIFIL continued to extend humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in its area, to the extent possible within available resources. Such assistance was provided in the form of medical supplies, water, clothes, food, fuel, electricity, engineering work, repairs to buildings damaged as a result of firing and escorts to farmers. In addition, water projects, equipment or services for schools and gifts of supplies to social services and needy people were provided from resources made available by troop-contributing Governments. UNIFIL medical centres and mobile teams provided care to an average of 2,500 civilian patients per month and a field dental programme was also provided. The Force cooperated closely on such matters with the Lebanese authorities, the Coordinator of the United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies and programmes operating in Lebanon, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations. UNIFIL personnel contributed \$7,718 towards humanitarian work.

### III. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

20. By its resolution 47/205 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNIFIL at a rate not to exceed \$12,190,000 gross (\$11,931,500 net) per month for the period beginning 1 February 1993, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 768 (1992). Should the Security Council decide to extend UNIFIL beyond its current mandate period, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining the Force would be within the commitment authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 47/205, assuming continuance of the Force's existing strength and responsibilities.

21. As of 15 July 1993, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIFIL Special Account for the period since the inception of the Force through 31 July 1993 amounted to \$228.7 million.

### IV. OBSERVATIONS

22. During the last six months, the situation in southern Lebanon, although unchanged over all, was marked by an increased level of hostilities. The attacks by armed elements against Israeli and associated military targets on Lebanese territory were generally more effective than in the past and the severity of Israeli retaliation has risen concomitantly. Despite repeated appeals, the highly escalatory practice of firing into populated areas continued, causing casualties among men, women and children.

23. UNIFIL continued, to the best of its abilities, to ensure the peaceful character of its area of operation and to limit the conflict to the extent possible. It also did what it could to protect the inhabitants from the effects of the violence. In carrying out its tasks, it was again severely hampered by firing directed at its own positions and personnel, both by the armed elements and IDF/DFF. One member of the Force was killed by such firing. I must stress once again that respect by all concerned for UNIFIL's international and impartial status is essential for it to function effectively.

24. I have noted with satisfaction the improvement of the situation in the other parts of Lebanon, which has made it possible once again to use Beirut's international airport for the rotation of UNIFIL's contingents. Similarly, the hand-over of a part of UNIFIL's area of operation to the Lebanese army is another small step forward.

25. On the other hand, the hostilities in UNIFIL's area of operation and to the north of it highlight Israel's continuing occupation of parts of southern Lebanon, despite the Security Council's repeated calls for Israel's withdrawal. As a consequence, UNIFIL continues to be prevented from implementing its mandate.

26. Israel's general attitude to the situation in southern Lebanon and to UNIFIL's mandate remains as described in previous reports. The Israeli authorities state that Israel has no territorial claims in Lebanon and that the "security zone" is a temporary arrangement. In their view, such an arrangement

is needed for the purpose of ensuring the security of northern Israel so long as the Lebanese Government is not able to exercise effective authority and prevent its territory from being used to launch attacks against Israel. The Israeli authorities further consider that all issues between Israel and Lebanon should be dealt with in the bilateral talks within the framework of the peace talks, leading to a peace treaty between the two countries.

27. For its part, the Government of Lebanon takes pride in the progress it has made in restoring law and order, resettling displaced persons and moving forward towards the rehabilitation of the country. It considers that there can be no possible justification for the continuation of Israel's occupation of Lebanese territory, which it views as the root cause of the continuing hostilities in the southern part of the country. Lebanon's position is described in detail in a letter which its Permanent Representative to the United Nations addressed to me on 14 July 1993 (S/26083). In that letter, the Permanent Representative also informed me of his Government's decision to request the Security Council to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further period of six months.

28. Although UNIFIL has not been able to make visible progress towards the implementation of its mandate, its contribution to stability and the protection it is able to afford the population of the area remain nevertheless important. I therefore recommend that the Security Council accept the Lebanese Government's request and extend UNIFIL's mandate for another period of six months, that is, until 31 January 1994.

29. In making this recommendation, I must again draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some \$229 million. This represents money owed to Member States which contribute the troops who make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear their remaining arrears.

30. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Trond Furuhovde, the Force Commander, and to all the men and women under his command, both military and civilian, for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations. I also pay tribute to Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren for his sterling contribution to the Force during more than four years as its Commander.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1978, document S/12611.

