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LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Lebanese Government has decided to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is due to expire on 19 April 1986, for a further period of six months, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), as well as of other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

I wish to stress that the Lebanese Government is convinced, despite the current situation in southern Lebanon, that UNIFIL, which symbolizes the will of the international community, continues to be an important factor for stability and the best available option for ensuring peace and security in the region, precisely at this time when further sustained efforts are still needed to enable UNIFIL completely to discharge the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

The Lebanese Government would like to express its gratitude on this occasion and to pay tribute to UNIFIL and to the troop-contributing countries for the efforts and sacrifices which they are making in order to serve the cause of peace in Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would kindly bring the text of this letter to the attention of members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative