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LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1980 FROM THE CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSIONS OF FIJI, IRELAND AND SENEGAL TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the Governments of all eleven countries which contribute troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) we have the honour, in accordance with the decision of the representatives of these countries which met today in Dublin, to convey to you the text of the agreed Communiqué issued following the conclusion of the meeting. We would request that this be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Narsi RANIGA  
Charge d'Affaires of the  
Permanent Mission of Fiji

(Signed) Bernard DAVENPORT  
Charge d'Affaires of the  
Permanent Mission of Ireland

(Signed) Ibrahim SY  
Charge d'Affaires of the  
Permanent Mission of Senegal

Annex

Communiqué issued by the troop-contributing States of the  
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Fiji, France,  
Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria,  
Norway, Senegal, Sweden) following their meeting in  
Dublin on 2 May 1980

Ministers and representatives of States contributing contingents to UNIFIL met today to discuss the serious difficulties experienced by UNIFIL in carrying out the Mandate entrusted to it.

They recalled that when UNIFIL was established in March 1978 the Security Council in its resolution 425 laid down that the Force should confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority to the area. They also recalled that UNIFIL was to use its best efforts to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to ensure that its area of operation was not utilized for hostile activities of any kind.

In a wide-ranging exchange of views, discussion focused in particular on the need to establish conditions that would enable UNIFIL to operate effectively and would ensure full security for the Force and its personnel, within the terms of the Mandate and guidelines laid down by the Security Council.

Ministers and representatives expressed full support for the untiring efforts made by the Secretary-General, and by the Force Commander, to implement fully the Mandate of the Security Council.

Ministers and representatives believe that, despite the difficulties UNIFIL had faced, it continues to make a significant contribution to peace in the Middle East and to the prevention of an outbreak of more general hostilities. At the same time, they express their strong support for the efforts of the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority to the area and call for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. They remain convinced that the full implementation of UNIFIL's Mandate is in the best interests of all the parties concerned.

Ministers and representatives stated that unless rapid progress is made in the creation of conditions in which the Force can operate more safely and effectively, including adequate international protection and immunity for its personnel, its continued viability may be brought into question. They are convinced therefore, that the basic requirement, as the Security Council recognized in its statement of 18 April 1980, is that the Force "take immediate and total control of its entire area of operations up to the internationally recognized boundaries" and they welcome and firmly support the Council's stated intention to take such determined action as the situation calls for to this end.

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They fully endorse the call made by the Security Council in resolution 467 of 24 April 1980 on all parties concerned and all those capable of lending any assistance, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in enabling UNIFIL to fulfil its Mandate. Only through such co-operation, which is the basis for all peace-keeping operations, will UNIFIL be enabled to achieve the minimum conditions necessary for the effective implementation of its Mandate. They will continue to discuss with the Secretary-General practical steps which can be taken towards the achievement of the basic conditions which are necessary if the Force is to operate fully and effectively.

The difficulties faced by UNIFIL, tragically highlighted by the death of a number of its personnel through the actions of both the so-called de facto forces and armed elements, show only too clearly that the required co-operation from the parties has not been forthcoming. However, UNIFIL's difficulties stem primarily from the fact that it has been obstructed in its efforts to take control of the entire area entrusted to it. UNIFIL has been denied full freedom of movement in this area. The so-called de facto forces have resisted UNIFIL attempts to extend its control and have regularly harassed and attacked UNIFIL and the local population. There are still groups of the so-called armed elements in UNIFIL's area of operation. These factors have inhibited UNIFIL's ability to discharge its responsibilities effectively. Israel's extensive support of the so-called de facto forces has been the key factor in enabling these forces to act as they have done. Ministers and representatives, recalling that the Security Council has strongly deplored the provision of military assistance to the so-called de facto forces, call on Israel to cease this support. They call on all parties to co-operate fully with UNIFIL.

It was agreed that the text of the statement should be presented formally in New York on behalf of all eleven Governments to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation as a document of the Security Council. It was also agreed that the text would be the basis for a number of diplomatic approaches to be made to certain other Governments on behalf of the group of troop-contributing countries as a whole.

The Governments of the troop-contributing States further intend, through continuing regular meetings, to monitor developments closely, and to continue to act in concert to support the efforts of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, they intend to meet again at ministerial level in due course to review how far progress has been made towards the creation of conditions which will allow UNIFIL to exercise fully and effectively the Mandate it has received from the Security Council.

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