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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in pursuance of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978.

The French Government notified me some time ago that it would be withdrawing the French infantry battalion from UNIFIL soon after the expiration of the current mandate. The Iranian Government has also informed me that its contingent would be withdrawn at the expiration of the current mandate. I have therefore approached a number of Governments with a view to trying to find replacements for these contingents.

The Netherlands Government has now informed me that it is willing to provide an infantry battalion for UNIFIL with effect from 1 March 1979. I have also been informed by the Governments of Fiji and Nigeria that they are willing to increase their present contingents by 300 and 150 respectively.

The above arrangements would very largely fill the gap in UNIFIL left by the withdrawal of the two contingents above-mentioned.

I would be most grateful if you would inform the members of the Council of these developments. Subject to the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL and the usual consultations, it is my intention to make practical arrangements to implement them in the near future.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM