



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/14118
21 August 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Special Report of the Secretary-General on the
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Introduction

1. I am submitting this special report to the Security Council to bring to its attention certain recent developments within and adjacent to the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which has led to a dangerous escalation of tension in the area. The following account is mainly based on reports received from the Commander of UNIFIL.

Situation adjacent to the UNIFIL area

2. On 18 August, UNIFIL reported a marked increase in the presence of troops and vehicles of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) throughout the enclave and in particular in the area of Al Khiam. At about 2015 hours 1/ on 18 August, the IDF and the de facto forces (Christian and allied militias) started shelling Beaufort Castle and the surrounding areas; this shelling continued until about 0400 hours on 19 August and about 700 rounds of artillery were fired. At about 0230 hours on 19 August, six IDF jets dropped about 12 bombs on Beaufort Castle. Whilst the shelling and bombing were in progress, about 200 IDF troops conducted an operation in the area of the villages of Arnun and Kafr Tibnit.

3. As soon as the Commander of UNIFIL learned of the attack, he protested to the Israeli authorities. The Israeli attack during the night of 18-19 August was also protested by the Lebanese Permanent Representative in a letter to the President of the Security Council (S/14114); he stated that the Israeli military operation resulted in at least 25 killed, including five Lebanese civilians and 26 wounded, including a number of Lebanese civilians, as well as very heavy destruction of houses and property. In a letter addressed to me on the same day, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO also protested against the Israeli attack; he indicated that Israeli artillery fire on Arnun resulted in the death of four civilians and the wounding of five; in addition, 12 Palestinian fighters were killed, 11 wounded and three missing. In a press release issued by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations on 21 August, it was indicated that the operation was intended "to hamper terrorist organisation and prevent terrorists from embarking upon attacks against Israeli settlements" and also "to destroy artillery and mortar nests which shelled Israel's northern settlements and Major Haddad's south Lebanese enclaves."

1/ All times GMT.

4. At 0515 hours on 19 August, the IDF and de facto forces resumed shelling of the Beaufort Castle and Arnun areas north of the Litani. Between 0515 hours and 1200 hours approximately 92 artillery rounds were fired from positions in Marjayoun and Et-Taibe areas.
5. Between 1700 hours on 19 August and 0500 hours on 20 August, the IDF and de facto forces fired about six artillery rounds into the Beaufort Castle area, four artillery rounds into the Hasbayya area and some 12 artillery rounds into Tyre, Burj ash Shamali and Ar Rashidiyah which are in the Tyre pocket.
6. In connexion with the above attacks, it may be mentioned that between 0330 hours on 19 August and 0500 hours on 20 August about 50 artillery pieces, one tank, 10 half tracks, 8 armoured personnel carriers, 49 assorted vehicles and 7 heavy helicopters belonging to the IDF were sighted in the enclave.
7. On 20 August, between 1130 and 1330 hours, 32 IDF jet aircraft dropped a total of 180 bombs in the Beaufort Castle, Yuhmur, Arnun, Kafr Tibnit and Kafr Rumman areas. About 250 rounds of artillery were fired by IDF/DFP between 1000 hours and 1200 hours on targets in the Arnun and Beaufort Castle areas. During the same period, the DFP also fired 26 rounds artillery into Tyre and Rashidiyah. Between 1700 and 2345 hours, the IDF/DFP fired 54 rounds of artillery at the Qaqaiya at Jisr area and 13 tank rounds at the Beaufort Castle area. Between 2212 and 2305 hours on the same day, the armed elements fired 66 artillery rounds from the Qaqaiya at Jisr area to the vicinity of Marjayoun and to unidentified targets.
8. On 21 August, between 0500 and 1730 hours, the IDF/DFP fired a total of 181 artillery and mortar rounds towards Yuhmur and Beaufort Castle.

Situation in the UNIFIL area

9. At 2017 hours on 18 August, the DFP shelled the villages of Kafra and Yatar within the Dutch battalion sector on the alleged ground that "the area was full of terrorists".
10. On 19 August, at about 1040 hours, the DFP fired four artillery rounds close to the UNIFIL Force Mobile Reserve which was conducting an exercise near Yatar in the Dutch battalion area.
11. On 20 August, between 1100 hours and 1147 hours, the DFP fired 28 mortar rounds into the villages of Haddatha and Ayta az Zutt in the Irish battalion sector. Three rounds impacted close to a UNIFIL post. Prior to the shelling, the DFP informed UNIFIL that they would be shelling the villages of Haddatha, Ayta az Zutt, Brashit and Yatar.
12. At 0630 hours on 20 August, a patrol conducted by the Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) was stopped by the DFP about two kilometres south-west of OP Khiam and was told that it could not go into the area of the village of El Mari in the enclave. Weapons were pointed at the observers, their radio was smashed and their maps were confiscated. Subsequently, at 0715 hours, another OGL patrol, from OP Hin, was detained at the village of Bayt Lif until 1526 hours.

13. On the same day, at 1010 hours, the DFF sent a message to UNIFIL stating that "unplanned OGL patrols in Free Lebanon must be stopped immediately". The message added that vehicle movements were to be limited to logistical purposes only and that the sending of all operational messages from the OPs was to be stopped. The message concluded with a threat that, if this were not done, the DFF would take "serious measures" which might even include the closing of all observation posts.

Observations

14. As of the time of writing of this report, the situation in the area is quiet, but remains extremely tense. All possible efforts are being made, both at United Nations Headquarters and in the area, to restore and maintain the cease-fire, and prevent a further dangerous escalation of the conflict. I have already expressed my concern at the attack launched by the Israeli forces and have deplored the present cycle of violence and the resulting casualties, civilian as well as military, wherever they have occurred. I appeal once again to all the parties to co-operate fully with UNIFIL in restoring and maintaining the cease-fire and in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.