



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/14421  
27 March 1981  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the heads of State and Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 10 States members of the European Community, meeting as the European Council, issued in Maastricht on 24 March 1981 the following statement on the situation in Lebanon.

"The European Council notes with great concern the latest developments in southern Lebanon, which have led to the tragic deaths of three Nigerian UNIFIL soldiers, stationed there in the cause of re-establishing peace and security in the region.

"As the European Council has stated on many occasions, the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be fully respected.

"The European Council considers that only the complete implementation of the UNIFIL mandate can create the conditions necessary for a progressive return of the south of the country to Lebanese sovereignty.

"In order to enable UNIFIL to carry out its mandate in its entire area of operations up to the internationally recognized boundaries, the 10 member States of the European Community, some of which contribute troops to UNIFIL, call for the immediate and full co-operation of all interested parties.

"In this connexion, the European Council supports the statement made on 20 March 1981 by the current President of the Security Council warning against the placing of any obstacle in the way of the efforts of UNIFIL to discharge its mandate in full."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council. I include the official French translation of the statement.

(Signed) H. SCHELTEMA  
Permanent Representative