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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As a result of consultations among the members of the Security Council I have been authorized to issue the following statement:

At the end of the 2289th meeting of the Security Council, I made a statement to note the deep sorrow shared by all members of the Council, over the loss of two United Nations soldiers in Lebanon as well as all those others who have fallen in fulfilment of their duty in the cause of peace.

I also said that I was certain that I spoke on behalf of the Council when I conveyed our condolences to the Government and people of Fiji as well as to the families of the victims.

As President of the Security Council, I wish to condemn the killing on 19 June by so-called armed elements of two Fijian peace-keeping soldiers of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

This outrage against members of a peace-keeping force is a direct defiance of the authority of the Security Council and a challenge to the mission of UNIFIL, as stipulated in Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

In this connexion, I am encouraged to learn that a group has already been established to investigate these events and that in the meantime appropriate steps are being taken by all concerned, in co-operation with the command of UNIFIL, to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

I also commend the valiant action and the courage, under the most adverse circumstances, of the soldiers of UNIFIL and express full support for their efforts.
