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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter of 5 September 1978 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon with regard to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/12834), and to state that the withdrawal of the Israel Defence Forces from southern Lebanon was completed on 13 June 1978.

This fact was confirmed by the Commander of UNIFIL on the same day and duly recorded in the Progress Report of the Secretary-General of that date (S/12620/Add.5). Israel has thus fulfilled its part in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) which, it should be noted, do not require control of any area to be turned over to UNIFIL, as alleged in the Lebanese letter of 5 September.

Israel reserves its position on the other points in that letter.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative