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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1978 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.

Following consultation with the Security Council (S/12641 and S/12642), I have accepted the offer of the Government of Senegal to provide a battalion for UNIFIL. When this battalion and the remainder of the logistic units arrive in the mission area by the end of April, the Force will have a total strength of about 3,500, excluding the Iranian and Swedish companies on temporary assignment with UNIFIL (about 400) which will have to return to their parent units in the near future.

In response to my approach, the Government of Nigeria has also agreed to make available a battalion for service with UNIFIL. It is my intention, subject to the usual consultations, to accept this offer. The inclusion of the Nigerian battalion would bring the Force to the total strength authorized by the Security Council, which is "in the order of 4,000" (S/12611, para. 9 (c)).

You will recall that at its informal meeting of 20 April, I advised the Security Council that it might be necessary to increase the strength of the Force to the level of 6,000 if UNIFIL is to perform fully and effectively the tasks entrusted to it by the Council. I am following this matter closely and shall report to the Council on it in the near future.

I should be most grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM
