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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1978 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On completing my visit to the area, I wish to inform the Security Council without delay of the current state of affairs concerning the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), especially in relation to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. In the light of my visit to the area of operations, I shall be communicating in a separate letter my further recommendations concerning the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon.

During my visit to the area, I had extensive talks with the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Lebanon concerning the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in all its parts. I also had talks with Mr. Arafat concerning practical arrangements for the implementation of the resolution. I shall be reporting more fully on this aspect of my visit at a later stage.

In Israel I had talks with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister concerning the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) and especially the question of Israeli withdrawal. During these talks I stressed the urgent need for withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in accordance with resolution 425 (1978). The Prime Minister assured me of the firm intention of Israel to withdraw completely from Lebanese territory.

In this connexion, I have now been informed by the Israeli authorities of the following specific steps in this regard:

For purposes of withdrawal, Israel proposes that the withdrawal will take place in two phases, from a central area, from which the IDF will be completely withdrawn by 30 April 1978, and from a belt along the ADL in the south and to the north, the withdrawal from which will be arranged in the near future. A map delineating this plan will be provided to the members of the Council as soon as possible.

The central area, from which the IDF will complete its withdrawal on 30 April 1978, may be described as follows: the area of withdrawal south of the Litani is bordered on the west by the Mediterranean, in the south by grid line 672, in the east by an approximate north-south line 2 kilometres east of the villages of Majdal Silm, Jwayya and Qana. This central area is approximately 550 square kilometres, and, together with the area previously vacated by Israel on 11 and

S/12657
English
Page 2

14 April, amounts to approximately 750 square kilometres and represents approximately 65 per cent of the total territory of southern Lebanon occupied by Israel.

I have instructed General Siilasvuo to continue, as a matter of urgency, his contacts with the Israeli authorities with a view to complete withdrawal of Israeli forces in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

I should be grateful for the possibility to elaborate orally to the members of the Security Council on the above letter at the earliest opportunity.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM
