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SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

1. I am submitting this special report to bring to the attention of the Security Council a most serious development concerning the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
2. In connexion with the move of the Lebanese Army contingent to southern Lebanon, on which I shall be reporting separately to the Security Council, the de facto forces under Major Haddad began shelling UNIFIL positions including the barracks at Tyre on 15 April. Exchanges of fire between the de facto forces and Palestinian armed elements also took place.
3. Following a lull, the shelling of UNIFIL positions resumed on the morning of 18 April. Several hundred artillery rounds are estimated to have been fired. There was also an exchange between armed elements and de facto forces, during which one Norwegian soldier was killed and another seriously wounded. The UNIFIL headquarters at Naqoura, which is located in the area controlled by Major Haddad, also came under fire. When the de facto forces fired at a UNIFIL helicopter about to land at the headquarters, UNIFIL personnel returned the fire and in the ensuing exchange one of the de facto forces was killed. Firing in the area stopped by the early afternoon.
4. In the evening of the same day, UNIFIL headquarters came under heavy fire by the de facto forces. For hours and in darkness, they shelled indiscriminately the entire headquarters' compound, including the hospital and the helipad, with mortar, rocket and heavy machine-gun fire. As a result of the shelling, six Irish and two Dutch members of UNIFIL were wounded. All buildings and many vehicles were hit. Three helicopters were severely damaged. At the time of this report, all wounded and hospital patients are still being kept in the bunkers in view of the continued instability of the situation.
5. On hearing of this massive and unprovoked assault on UNIFIL headquarters, urgent efforts were made, both at United Nations Headquarters and in the field, to get the firing stopped. This was finally achieved through the efforts of the Israeli authorities and representatives of the Israel Defence Force on the spot.
6. This incident highlights in the most dramatic fashion the irresponsibility of the forces which UNIFIL has been facing with the utmost restraint in southern Lebanon for almost a year. I am taking steps through all possible channels to ensure that those responsible for this unprecedented act of indiscriminate violence, directed against both the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon, are brought under control and that such incidents will not recur.