



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the Security Council prepares to meet today to debate the situation in South Lebanon, I am forwarding to you a memorandum on the subject, prepared by the Lebanese Parliamentary Delegation, which you were so kind as to receive on 18 February 1982.

This Parliamentary Delegation, headed by former Prime Minister, Mr. Amin El-Hafez, current Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Parliament, Mr. Anwar El-Sabbah, former Minister, and Mr. Chafic Badr, member of the House Defense Committee, was formed by the Speaker of the House, H.E. Mr. Kamel El-Assad, to follow Lebanon's case at the Security Council and to convey opinion on this matter as perceived in the House of Parliament.

I am instructed by my Government to request that the enclosed memorandum be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ghassan TUENI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Memorandum dated 16 February 1982 from the Lebanese Parliamentary
Delegation addressed to the Secretary-General

The Lebanese Parliamentary Delegation, being charged to observe and follow the Security Council debate on South Lebanon, has the honour to state the following:

Security Council resolution 425 (1978) was adopted in the wake of the Israeli invasion and occupation of large areas of South Lebanon in March 1978. The Security Council reacted forcefully, and has, since then, adopted many resolutions, aiming, inter alia, to restore normalcy to that embattled region. UNIFIL was established to implement those resolutions and was charged to:

- (a) confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory;
- (b) restore international peace and security;
- (c) and, assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

Almost four years have passed since the adoption of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), but South Lebanon has not been relieved of its burden. Indeed, South Lebanon has suffered enormously as a result of continued, direct or indirect, Israeli occupation, and of the fact that Lebanese authority and sovereignty have not been restored. The Lebanese people - whom we have the honour to represent - having had special hopes in the United Nations and having been confident of the usefulness of its resolutions and of the effectiveness of its force, await patiently the full implementation of UNIFIL's mandate.

Furthermore, as Security Council resolutions were adopted with the consent of all members, the latter have a direct commitment to facilitate the implementation of all these resolutions. No State, therefore, is justified in objecting to, or obstructing in any manner, their implementation. Unfortunately, it has been a bitter and frustrating experience for our people: the Security Council resolutions adopted by the international community and accepted by Lebanon remain to be implemented.

The Lebanese people are deeply concerned for the future. The occupation of part of their land in the South has weighed heavily on them, and as a result, they fear their destiny. Resolution 490 (1981) was adopted and, although inadvertently, resulted in freezing resolution 425 (1978) and those subsequent resolutions dealing with South Lebanon. Resolution 490 (1981), to which Lebanon was not a party, called for an "immediate cessation of all armed attacks", thereby establishing a de facto cease-fire.

No matter how appealing or desirable a cease-fire may be, we fear that it would lead to the consecration of a direct or indirect Israeli presence on Lebanese territory, as well as the continued absence of effective Lebanese authority and

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sovereignty from the area. Thus, uncertainties about our destiny are created, and a grave threat is posed, not only to our people in the South, but in the whole of Lebanon. We find it needless to stress that Lebanese territory is one and indivisible. Besides, Lebanon will not be able to restore its image as a free and democratic State and as a model for coexistence between cultures and an emissary of welfare and friendship to all, unless it can maintain every inch of its territory and restore its legitimate authority over every corner of its land, particularly in the South.

Excellency:

We request that you convey our point of view, as representatives of the Lebanese people, to members of the Security Council, when the question of South Lebanon is discussed by the Council. We also request that our viewpoint be conveyed to all members of the United Nations. Resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) contain provisions enjoining UNIFIL to implement its mandate. Unfortunately, UNIFIL has not been enabled to exercise its prerogatives fully, which leads us to assume one of two things. One, either the Security Council, as an expression of the international will, decides on an issue and fails to carry out its decisions. In this case, the people's faith in the mandatory character of Security Council resolutions and in the effectiveness of the United Nations will definitely be undermined. Or, two, the Security Council is not sufficiently aware of the realities of South Lebanon. In the latter case, we consider it our duty to draw your attention to the fact that after four years, it is no longer permissible to treat the question as if UNIFIL were a mere observer force.

The Security Council must, therefore, to be consistent with its resolutions, ensure their implementation by any means. We consider that any marginal change cannot contribute to the effectiveness of UNIFIL. A mere increase in the number will remain superficial, if it is not accompanied by the consolidation of the original nature of the mandate, as defined in resolution 426 (1978). We are confident that the members of the Security Council do not want their action to be envisaged as a simple, tranquilizing measure. We are again hopeful that the Security Council and its resolutions remain very useful. We expect the outcome of its debates to take the form of sufficient arrangements, in order to render UNIFIL capable in the future of carrying out its mandate effectively, which we would like to reiterate:

To confirm the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

Only the full implementation of this mandate will restore normalcy to South Lebanon; and only the Lebanese Government as the sole authority and guardian of Lebanon's sovereignty can restore peace to the area.

Dr. Amin EL-HAFEZ
Former Prime Minister
Chairman of the Parliamentary
Committee on Foreign Affairs

Mr. Anwar EL-SABBAH
Former Minister,
Member of Parliament

Mr. Chafic BADR
Member of Parliament
Member of Defense
Committee
