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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PURSUANCE OF
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 516 (1982)

Addendum

1. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report of 1 August 1982 (S/15334), intensive efforts have continued both in the field and at United Nations Headquarters for the speedy implementation of Security Council resolution 516 (1982). Further contacts were held with the Israeli authorities with a view to obtaining their assurances of co-operation at the earliest possible date. On 3 August, the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Lt-General Erskine, had a further meeting with senior officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry in this connexion. He was informed that the Israeli Cabinet would discuss this subject on 5 August, following the return of the Foreign Minister from abroad.
2. The Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission (ILMAC) which has established temporary offices at Yarze near the Headquarters of the Lebanese National Army, sent a liaison team to the west sector of Beirut on 2 August, but was prevented from crossing into that sector by Israeli guards at all crossing points. However, the liaison team was able to reach west Beirut the next day and established contact with the PLO Office.
3. On 2 August, General Erskine ordered a group of 28 Observers, at present assigned with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to proceed to the temporary ILMAC offices in Yarze as a preparatory measure for the proposed observation operation. However, due to a misunderstanding in the present urgent circumstances, they were stopped by the Israeli forces near Khalde Junction south of the Beirut airport, seven kilometres from Yarze and had to return to Naqoura. In this connexion, the IDF Liaison Officer has informed the Chief of Staff of UNTSO that until a decision is taken by the Government of Israel on Security Council resolution 516 (1982), no co-operation will be extended to UNTSO personnel in the execution of that resolution.

OBSERVATIONS

4. The United Nations Military Observers are unarmed. Their protection is the United Nations insignia they wear and the United Nations flag and mainly the authority of the Security Council. To carry out their observation duties in an area of conflict, they normally set up observation posts on both sides of the front line, carry out patrol activities when necessary and at all times work in close liaison with the parties concerned. Therefore, it is not only as a matter of principle but also for important practical reasons that the co-operation of the parties must be obtained for the establishment of an effective United Nations observation operation.

5. As indicated in the last report of the Secretary-General on this subject (S/15334) the Lebanese Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization have already assured General Erskine of their full co-operation for the deployment of United Nations Observers in and around Beirut in accordance with Security Council resolution 516 (1982). The Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) is still awaiting the reply of the Israeli Government. Every effort is being made, both in the field and at United Nations Headquarters, to stress to the Israeli authorities the importance and the urgency of this matter. Although the detailed plan for the deployment of United Nations Observers in the Beirut area has been ready since 1 August, it cannot be put into full effect until the reply from the Israeli Government is received.

6. The Secretary-General is keenly aware of his responsibility under Security Council resolution 516 (1982) in which the Council authorised him to deploy immediately, upon the request of the Lebanese Government, United Nations Observers to monitor the situation in and around Beirut. More than two days have already passed since the adoption of that resolution and the receipt of the request of the Lebanese Government, and the situation in the Beirut area remains unstable and precarious.

7. Therefore, as a purely temporary practical arrangement, the Secretary-General has instructed General Erskine to take immediate steps to set up initially observation machinery in territory controlled by the Lebanese Government, in close consultation and co-operation with the Lebanese national army. General Erskine, upon receiving these instructions, has informed the Secretary-General of the following measures which he has taken or envisages to take:

- (a) the United Nations Observers assigned to ILMAC, who are now in the Beirut area, have been constituted as the Observer Group Beirut (OGB). The Chairman of ILMAC, Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Letourneur, has been appointed as Officer-in-Charge of OGB.
- (b) OGB will immediately set up observation posts in territory under Lebanese control at suitable locations, in consultation with the Lebanese army authorities.
- (c) All the parties will be informed of the above arrangements and will be requested to respect the integrity and safety of the United Nations Observers in the Beirut area.
- (d) OGB will observe and report on the situation in and around Beirut on a daily basis.

8. I shall keep the Council currently informed of further developments both regarding the negotiations with the Israeli authorities and the activities of OGB.