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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PURSUANCE
OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 517 (1982)

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of resolution 517 (1982) which the Security Council adopted in the evening of 4 August 1982. In that resolution, the Council reconfirmed its resolutions 508 (1982), 509 (1982), 512 (1982), 513 (1982), 515 (1982) and 516 (1982), confirmed once again its demand for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon; censured Israel for its failure to comply with the above resolutions; called for the prompt return of Israeli troops which had moved forward subsequent to 1325 hours EDT on 1 August 1982; took note of the decision of the Palestine Liberation Organization to move the Palestinian armed forces from Beirut; expressed its appreciation for the efforts and steps taken by the Secretary-General to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 516 (1982), and authorized him, as an immediate step, to increase the number of United Nations observers in and around Beirut. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the implementation of the present resolution as soon as possible and not later than 1000 hours EDT on 5 August 1982, and decided to meet at that time if necessary in order to consider the report of the Secretary-General and, in case of failure to comply by any of the parties to the conflict, to consider adopting effective ways and means in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Immediately after the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary-General brought it to the attention of the Foreign Minister of Israel as well as of the Foreign Minister of Lebanon and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He instructed the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Lieutenant-General Emmanuel A. Erskine, to contact the parties immediately regarding the implementation of the resolution.
3. General Erskine contacted senior officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry during the early morning of 5 August 1982. At 1200 hours LT (0700 hours New York time) they advised him that they were not in a position to inform him of the Israeli reaction to resolutions 516 (1982) and 517 (1982). They added that the Israeli response would be made as promised after the cabinet meeting which was scheduled for later in the afternoon of the same day.
4. On instructions from General Erskine, the Officer-in-Charge of the Observer Group Beirut, Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Letourneur, got in touch with the Lebanese authorities. On the morning of 5 August, the Secretary-General received the following communication from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon:

"In reply to your communication I am writing to assure you of the Lebanese Government's readiness to fully co-operate in the implementation of resolution 517. This co-operation is made pursuant to our letters of 7 June 1982 (see S/15178, para. 3) and of 1 August 1982 (S/15333) and therefore without prejudice to Lebanon's well-known attitude regarding the validity of the General Armistice Agreement of 1949 with Israel.

We also wish to draw attention to the immediate objectives of the present Lebanese policy in this context, as cast in a communiqué of the Council of Ministers of 14 July 1982 transmitted by our letter of 16 July 1982 (S/15300), and more particularly to ensure the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armed forces from Lebanon and the assistance of a multinational force to render the Palestinian withdrawal from Beirut possible, and hence the exclusive deployment of the Lebanese Army and security forces over all of Lebanon's territory.

May I request that this letter be included as is in your report to the Council."

5. Colonel Letourneur also contacted Chairman Arafat. The latter addressed to the Secretary-General the following message:

"I received your letter addressed to me through the head of ILMAC, via our representative at the United Nations at 10:00am (Beirut local time) on 5 August 1982. I would like to affirm to you that the Palestine Liberation Organization will continue to respect and remain committed to the cease-fire.

Moreover, the future arrangements for the departure of Palestinian armed forces from Beirut will be determined in agreement with the Lebanese Government on the basis of the Jeddah Declaration. A Palestinian-Lebanese joint committee has been continuously engaged in meetings for several days to put into implementation the contents of this agreement.

The Israeli aggression which took place yesterday and which led to the total isolation of the city from the outside world, obstructed the Lebanese side from contact with higher authorities, because of the indiscriminate shelling of all quarters and districts of the besieged city."

6. As soon as transit arrangements have been completed, General Erskine will dispatch to the Beirut area additional observers from the existing establishment of UNTSO.

7. The Officer-in-Charge of Observer Group Beirut reported that as of 1200 hours GMT, there was light sporadic shelling around the Beirut airport. As of 1400 hours GMT, the situation in the Beirut area was reported generally calm. Fires from previous engagements were burning in several parts of the city. The forward elements of the Israel Defence Force were deployed along a general line running from the warehouses and custom house in the port area southward to

St. Elias Armenian Church, due south again to the area of the National Museum and the race course. From there the line runs south, east of the AL Bark roundabout, thence southeast to a point 1/2 km. north of Mahat al Hadattah Hospital. The line then turns west to a point 1/2 km. north of the Tahwitat al Ghadir sports complex; thence west to a point north of Beirut International Airport; thence north to the area of the Moslem Cemetery and to a position on the Mediterranean coast south of the Iraqi Embassy.

8. The Secretary-General will submit a further report as soon as the reply of the Israeli Government is received, together with available information regarding developments in the area.

9. The Secretary-General is pursuing all possible efforts to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him by the Security Council. On 4 August, while at the United Nations Office in Vienna, he made a further attempt to secure the implementation of Security Council resolution 516 (1982). In particular he appealed to Prime Minister Begin, through the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office in Vienna, for adherence to the cease-fire and a cessation of all military activities, and for co-operation in the deployment of United Nations observers in and around Beirut, as called for by the Council. In making his appeal, the Secretary-General added that he was prepared to go immediately to Israel and Lebanon to discuss the matter with all parties concerned. During the evening of 4 August, Prime Minister Begin informed the Secretary-General, through the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office in Vienna, that the Israeli Government would welcome a visit by the Secretary-General if there were not a parallel visit to Chairman Arafat. The Secretary-General did not find that position acceptable, as he felt it his duty to meet with all parties involved in the hostilities. He reiterated his appeal to Prime Minister Begin for a cessation of the hostilities and for co-operation in the deployment of the United Nations observers in and around Beirut. He hopes that all parties will find it possible to abide by Security Council resolutions 516 (1982) and 517 (1982), and remains available to all parties in the pursuit of these goals.
