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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 20 August 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the following message from the President of the United States:

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

"As you know, the Government of the Republic of Lebanon has requested the deployment of a multinational force in Beirut to assist the Lebanese armed forces as they carry out the orderly and safe departure of Palestinian personnel now in the Beirut area in a manner which will further the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Government of Lebanon over the Beirut area. The Lebanese Government has asked for the participation of United States military personnel in this force, together with military personnel from France and Italy.

"I wish to inform you that the United States Government has agreed, in response to this request from the Lebanese Government, to deploy a force of about 800 personnel to Beirut for a period not exceeding 30 days. It is my firm intention and belief that these troops will not be involved in hostilities during the course of this operation.

"The deployment of this United States force is consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter. It furthers the goals of Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) adopted in June at the beginning of the Lebanese conflict. The force will plan to work closely with the United Nations observer group stationed in the Beirut area.

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"This agreement will support the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon. It is part of the continuing efforts of the United States Government to bring lasting peace to that troubled country, which has too long endured the trials of civil strife and armed conflict.

Ronald REAGAN"

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kenneth L. ADELMAN
Ambassador
