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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PURSUANCE
OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 518 (1982)

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of resolution 518 (1982) which the Security Council adopted in the afternoon of 12 August 1982. In that resolution, the Council demanded that Israel and all parties to the conflict observe strictly the terms of Security Council resolutions relevant to the immediate cessation of all military activities within Lebanon and particularly in and around Beirut; demanded the immediate lifting of all restrictions on the city of Beirut in order to permit the free entry of supplies to meet the urgent needs of the civilian population in Beirut; requested the United Nations observers in and in the vicinity of Beirut to report on the situation; and demanded that Israel co-operate fully in the effort to secure effective deployment of the United Nations observers, as requested by the Government of Lebanon, and in such a manner as to ensure their safety. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to report soonest to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution and decided to meet if necessary in order to consider the situation upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General.

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.

3. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 13 August 1982, the Permanent Representative of Israel conveyed the position of his Government as follows:

"In connection with the reporting functions entrusted to Your Excellency under paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 518 (1982), I have the honour to communicate to you, on instructions from my Government, the following:

1) The Israel Defence Forces strictly observe the cease-fire throughout Lebanon on the axiomatic condition that it is mutual and absolute.

2) Israel does not fight the civilian population, in Beirut or elsewhere. As is well known, the civilian population of West Beirut has been

taken hostage by the terrorists, in keeping with their long-established cowardly tactics of hiding behind civilians and establishing their positions in schools, hospitals, mosques, churches etc. The suffering caused to the civilians as a result of these cynical tactics is profoundly regretted by the Government and people of Israel.

3) Israel's position with regard to the matters dealt with in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Security Council resolution 518 (1982) has been fully set out in my letter dated 5 August 1982, as reproduced in document S/15345/Add.1 of the same date.

4. Also on 13 August 1982, the Foreign Ministry of Lebanon, through the Liaison Officer of the Lebanese Army, informed the Officer-in-Charge of the Observer Group Beirut (OGB) that the Lebanese Government accepted resolution 518 (1982);

5. On the same day, the Secretary-General received the following message from the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization:

"I received via our representative at the U.N., and via the head of ILMAC in Lebanon, the text of resolution 518 (1982). I inform your Excellency of the agreement of the Palestine Liberation Organization to this resolution, hoping that there will be a possibility of Israel's commitment to it, and those of its armed forces which are besieging Beirut and pouring their fire on it from air, land and sea against its innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilian inhabitants, as happened in recent days, especially yesterday.

I remind your Excellency of earlier resolutions regarding the war in Lebanon, especially resolution 517 which includes the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from Beirut, with the hope that sufficient international guarantees will be provided to ensure the implementation of this resolution, and to provide protection for the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon, so as to prevent a repetition of what happened in the camps of South Lebanon in the way of massacres, arrests and annihilation of their inhabitants."

6. As the Council is aware, there are at present 10 United Nations observers in the Beirut area, constituted as OGB. They are based temporarily at Yarze, south-east of the city of Beirut, but have not been able to establish adequate observation facilities near the forward positions of the parties. The requirements for the establishment of an effective United Nations observation operation have been set out in the Secretary-General's report of 3 August 1982 (S/15334/Add.1, para. 4). Efforts are continuing to bring additional observers to the Beirut area and also to enable United Nations observers to function effectively for the purposes envisaged by the Security Council in its resolutions. In the meantime, the 10 observers of OGB are performing their duties to the best of their capacity within the limitations of the situation.

7. The Chief of Staff of UNTSO has submitted the following report based on information received from OGB:

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"The situation in and around Beirut remained very tense throughout 12 August 1982. The exchange of artillery and small arms fire which was in progress at 2400 hours GMT on 11 August continued until 1610 hours GMT, 12 August. During that period sporadic and light to heavy exchanges of shelling took place, in the western sector of Beirut near Burj al Barajinah, Bir Hasan and the Museum crossing point. Rounds also fell in the vicinity of the airport, Sabra Camp and Ramlah al Bayda areas. In the eastern sector of Beirut, flares, machine gun and small arms fire were heard and observed in Haddath and Achrafiye areas.

At 0358 hours GMT, 12 August, air strikes began on the Sabra Camp, Ramlah al Bayda, Bir Hasan and Burj al Barajinah and continued until 1430 hours GMT. After 1610 hours GMT, 12 August, except for occasional and light small arms fire, the situation was generally calm. No shelling has been reported since then.

In the morning of 13 August, heavy civilian traffic was observed passing east and west at the Galerie Samaan crossing point. A team from OGB was able to reach the Headquarters of the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission (ILMAC) near Bir Hasan in west Beirut at 0740 hours GMT, 13 August."

8. With regard to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Secretary-General has been following with deep anxiety the deterioration of the situation affecting the civilian population in west Beirut. As a practical step, the Secretary-General asked Ambassador Anders I. Thunborg, Chairman of the United Nations inter-agency survey mission, to return to Lebanon on 10 August to re-assess the immediate needs of the affected population, with special reference to those in west Beirut. Ambassador Thunborg has visited and held discussions in Beirut and also in Jerusalem. The Secretary-General is continuing his efforts to secure the free entry of supplies to meet the urgent needs of the civilian population in Beirut.

9. The Secretary-General hopes that it will be possible to achieve, without delay, a solution of this urgent humanitarian problem. He also hopes that, with the co-operation of all concerned, the current efforts to resolve the broader aspects of the situation will be successful and will lead to the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council.
