

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/13496
15 August 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/RUSSIAN/
SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 13 AUGUST 1979 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to refer to the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

When the Iranian battalion of UNIFIL was withdrawn in January 1979, it was not replaced by a new contingent. As a stop-gap measure, the Secretary-General, following consultations with the Security Council, requested the Governments of Fiji and Nigeria to reinforce their contingents, which were subsequently increased by 150 men each.

As a consequence of these developments, the strength of UNIFIL was reduced to about 5,700, 300 below the total strength authorized by the Security Council. In this connexion, the Force Commander, Major-General E. A. Erskine, has drawn attention to the many tasks and problems confronting UNIFIL and he has strongly recommended that the Force be brought to full strength as soon as possible.

The Government of Ghana has now offered a battalion of 600 all ranks for service with UNIFIL. It is the intention of the Secretary-General, subject to the usual consultations, to accept this offer. In order not to exceed the present authorized strength, the Government of Ghana would be asked to make available at first a unit of 300 all ranks; this unit would be increased to full battalion strength as other contingents are reduced.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if the President of the Security Council would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Council.