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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (A/37/535). Additional information was made available to the Committee by representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. UNIFIL was established under Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 for an initial period of six months and has since been extended, most recently by Council resolution 523 (1982) of 18 October 1982, under which the mandate of UNIFIL was extended until 19 January 1983.
3. The report of the Secretary-General covers:
 - (a) Commitments for the period from 19 December 1981 to 18 December 1982;
 - (b) Expenditure and revised apportionments for periods from 19 December 1980 to 18 December 1982;
 - (c) Cost estimates for periods beyond 18 December 1982.

In addition, the Secretary-General reports on the status of contributions, and in paragraph 18 of his report he summarizes the action that needs to be taken by the General Assembly at its current session regarding the financing of UNIFIL. Details on item (b) above are provided in the annex to the Secretary-General's report.

4. In its consideration of the report by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee bore in mind the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in section V of resolution 36/138 A of 16 December 1981 to take all necessary action to ensure that UNIFIL is administered with maximum efficiency and economy.

5. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 7 of his report that, as at 30 September 1982, he had received \$448.5 million in contributions for the operation of UNIFIL, out of \$640.7 million apportioned among Member States for the periods from the inception of the Force on 19 March 1978 to 18 October 1982. According to the Secretary-General, the balance of \$192.2 million includes \$124.2 million apportioned to Member States that have stated that they do not intend to pay for UNIFIL, and \$19.6 million transferred to a special account in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/116 A of 10 December 1981. Thus, according to the Secretary-General, only \$48.4 million of the unpaid balance may be considered collectible at this time. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that there has been virtually no response to the appeal for voluntary contributions to UNIFIL in General Assembly resolution 36/138 A.

6. In paragraph 11, the Secretary-General states that the shortfall of \$143.8 million (see preceding paragraph)

"represents over 22 per cent of the total amounts apportioned among Member States to finance the costs of UNIFIL for the periods from the inception of the Force on 19 March 1978 to 18 October 1982. As stated before, this situation poses a very serious problem for the financial management of the Force. The Secretary-General continues to face increasing difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, particularly those due to the troop-contributing countries, payments to which have never been made on a current and full basis in accordance with rates agreed upon and are falling farther behind. They have conveyed again to the Secretary-General their very serious concern over this situation, which places a heavy burden on their Governments. So far, the Suspense Account established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/9 D has not achieved its purpose of alleviating this financial burden on the troop contributors. As mentioned in paragraph 10 above, the voluntary contributions credited to the Suspense Account amount to only \$18,356."

7. In a related matter, the Advisory Committee has been informed that the audited accounts for the biennium 1980-1981 indicate for the UNIFIL Special Account a "surplus" balance of \$5,939,256 as at 31 December 1981, representing excess of income over expenditure due to interest and miscellaneous credits accrued to the Account. The word "income" in the preceding sentence includes "assessed contributions, irrespective of collectibility". However, in consequence of the withholding of contributions by certain Member States, the surplus balance referred to has in effect been drawn upon to the full extent to supplement the income received from contributions for meeting expenses of the Force.

A. Commitments for UNIFIL for the period from 19 December 1981 to 18 December 1982

8. In sections I and II of resolution 36/138 A of 16 December 1981, the General Assembly appropriated funds for the operation of UNIFIL from 19 December 1980 to 18 December 1981 inclusive. Financing of UNIFIL in the mandate periods subsequent to 18 December 1981 has been under the authority of section III of resolution 36/138 A, by which the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNIFIL at a rate not to exceed \$13,316,666 gross (\$13,177,500 net) per month for the period from 19 December 1981 to 18 December 1982 inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period authorized in its resolution 488 (1981). Subsequently, by its resolution 36/138 C of 19 March 1982, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments for UNIFIL, which had been expanded by 1,000 troops under Security Council resolution 501 (1982), as follows: an amount not to exceed \$9,825,000 gross (\$9,822,000 net) for the period from 25 February to 18 June 1982, and at a rate not to exceed \$1,913,000 gross (\$1,910,333 net) per month for the period from 19 June to 18 December 1982, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond 19 June 1982.

9. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 12 of his report that he has entered into commitments for UNIFIL for the period from 19 December 1981 to 18 June 1982 in the amount of \$89,724,996 gross (\$88,887,000 net) and in the amount of \$30,459,332 gross (\$30,175,666 net) for each successive two-month period from 19 June up to 18 December 1982, under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 36/138 A and C. The Committee notes that these commitments are within the limits authorized by the Assembly in resolutions 36/138 A and C on the basis of recommendations by the Advisory Committee (see A/36/797, para. 30, and A/36/868, para. 9). The Committee recommends that the Assembly should appropriate the amount of \$181,102,992 gross (\$179,413,998 net) to cover the commitments entered into by the Secretary-General for the mandate periods from 19 December 1981 to 18 December 1982 (see para. 18 (a)-(d) of the Secretary-General's report).

B. Expenditure and revised apportionment for periods from 19 December 1980 to 18 December 1982

10. The disbursements made and obligations incurred by UNIFIL for the two 12-month periods from 19 December 1980 to 18 December 1982 are set forth in the annex to document A/37/535. As noted by the Secretary-General, the figures for 1981-1982 are provisional until the accounts can be closed formally.

C. Cost estimates for periods beyond 18 December 1982

11. As indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 14 of his report there is need for the General Assembly to authorize him to enter into commitments for the last month of the present three-month UNIFIL mandate period (19 December 1982-18 January 1982). The Secretary-General requests that he be authorized to enter into commitments for UNIFIL at the same level as had been authorized for each of the

first two months of the mandate under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 36/138 A and C, that is, in an amount not to exceed \$15,229,666 gross (\$15,087,833 net). The Advisory Committee concurs with this request.

12. In paragraph 15 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that authority needs to be provided for him to enter into commitments for UNIFIL for the period beyond 18 January 1983, should the Security Council decide to renew the mandate of the Force beyond that date. He points out, however, that "the future prospects of UNIFIL beyond 18 January 1983 are still unknown at this time, in view of which it is not feasible at this stage to formulate cost estimates for consideration by the General Assembly at its present session that would reflect accurately the anticipated future needs of the Force".

13. Under the circumstances, the Secretary-General requests that he be authorized to enter into commitments for the period from 19 January to 18 December 1983 at the same rate as he is currently authorized - that is at a rate not to exceed \$15,229,666 gross (\$15,087,833 net) per month. The Committee recommends that such authority should be granted, subject however to the requirement that the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee will be obtained for the actual level of commitments to be entered into for each mandate period that may be approved subsequent to 19 January 1983.

14. The Committee notes, that in paragraph 16 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates the procedures which he intends to follow should future decisions of the Security Council entail costs exceeding the limits authorized by the Assembly.
