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LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

1. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon has addressed today a letter to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States informing him of the decision of Israel to withdraw in the next few days its troops from parts of Mount Lebanon (namely, Aley and the Shouf regions).
2. The Government has seized the opportunity to bring to the attention of the League of Arab States the relevant United Nations, League of Arab States and other international resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 509 (1982) and 520 (1982).
3. The Government has reiterated its determination to see all non-Lebanese forces (Israeli, Syrian, Palestinian and others) withdraw from Lebanon completely and immediately, and has asked the League of Arab States for its assistance in this regard.

My Government wishes to inform Your Excellency that we will be consulting with you, in the light of the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions on developments as they occur.

I am enclosing the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, requesting Your Excellency to have it distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Rachid FAKHOURY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon
to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

I have the honour to write to you today, in the light of the events which have taken place and which are still taking place in Lebanon, to ask you to assist us in securing the implementation of the resolutions which have been adopted by international and Arab forums and which echo the Lebanese resolutions requesting the withdrawal from Lebanese territory of all non-Lebanese forces. In this connection, I would mention resolutions 509 and 520 of the Security Council, the resolution adopted by the Second Arab Summit Conference and the resolution of the Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 11 March 1983.

There is no need for me to dwell on the chain of events to which Lebanon has been subjected, ever since the situation in that country deteriorated to such an extent as to expose, in its causes and consequences, not only Lebanon but the entire Arab region. The last in a long series of trials which Lebanon has had to endure was its devastation by the Israelis in June 1982, followed by the occupation of a large part of its territory.

You will of course remember, having followed events in Lebanon during those critical days, that Lebanon has always looked to its Arab brothers - either bilaterally or through the League of Arab States, in particular its summit meetings - for help in securing the departure of the Israeli troops and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces, so as to be able to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory and to recover its full and undiluted sovereignty, this being a position which Lebanon has put forward both in its constitutional bodies and in international forums.

During the Summit Conference held at Fez from 6 to 8 September 1982, Lebanon submitted a working paper concerning the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from its territory. Point 4 of that paper requested the Summit Conference to take note of a resolution of the Lebanese authorities which provided for:

1. The withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armed forces from Lebanon;
2. The termination once and for all of Palestinian military operations in Lebanon and from Lebanon and the end of the armed presence of Palestinian organizations in Lebanon;
3. The termination of the mission of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon.

The Conference then adopted the following resolution:

"The Conference took note of the decision of the Lebanese Government to terminate the mission of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon on the understanding that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments would conduct negotiations on the measures to be taken in the light of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon."

/...

Having followed the efforts made by Lebanon, you are aware of the situation in so far as Lebanon and Syria are concerned, a situation which prevails despite the reservations expressed by Lebanon at the time of the adoption of the resolution by the Conference. In the course of contacts and talks with Syrian leaders, Lebanon expressly requested the withdrawal of the Syrian troops.

Now we are faced with the Israeli decision to effect, in the coming days, a partial withdrawal which, contrary to what we have consistently requested, is not based on a definite timetable culminating in the total evacuation of Israeli forces, since Israel has made it a prior condition that Syrian and Palestinian forces must be withdrawn from Lebanon first. You are certainly aware that, on various occasions, Lebanon has publicly expressed its fears over the potential danger to its unity, and even to its future, which a partial withdrawal by Israel represents. This being so, Lebanon will not renounce any part of the territory evacuated by Israel, and it is virtually impossible for it to prevent or to oppose any evacuation of foreign troops, whatever the conditions laid down. On the contrary, it is in the Lebanese national interest, and in the interest of the entire Arab nation, to take advantage of the situation to liberate the territory and to restore national sovereignty over it. In the circumstances, and in order to enable Lebanon to recover its full sovereignty, leaving aside the positions and arguments of the various factions, the purpose of this letter is for us to reaffirm our position concerning the decisions in the working paper submitted at the Fez Summit Conference, at which we requested the Syrian Arab Republic to withdraw its army from Lebanon once the mission of the Arab deterrent force was over and asked the Palestine Liberation Organization to put an end to its military operation in Lebanon and to withdraw all its armed forces, in addition to pressing for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops.

Having thus affirmed our position, we ask you to circulate the text of this letter to the Governments of member countries, so as to keep them informed of the request for withdrawal, in the hope that they and the League will support our cause, as required by our fraternal relationships and the principles of the Charter of the League, principles which are based on mutual respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Elie SALEM
Vice-President of the
Council of Ministers
Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Emigration
