

# UNITED NATIONS

## SECURITY COUNCIL



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### Note by the Secretary-General

Presented herewith, for the information of the members of the Security Council, is the text of a letter which I have addressed, in identical form, on 16 August 1969 to the Permanent Representatives of Israel and Lebanon:

"Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the prevailing situation in the Israel-Lebanon sector, which is currently under discussion in the Security Council. I find this situation, involving serious breaches of the cease-fire, very disturbing and I feel obliged to do whatever I can to alleviate it. It is for this reason that I am making this approach, in identical letters to your Government and to the Government of \_\_\_\_\_.

Since June 1967, there has been no effective United Nations observation operation in the Israel-Lebanon sector. There is only token United Nations observer representation on the Lebanese side and none at all on the Israeli side. It has not been possible, therefore, for me to provide the Council with accounts of incidents in that sector, including the most recent ones which have given rise to the present meetings of the Council. This lack of verified information cannot but affect adversely the consideration of the question in that body.

In view of the increasing seriousness of the situation in the Israel-Lebanon sector, I consider it to be my duty to propose to both Governments concerned, as I now do, that United Nations Observers, in adequate number to observe effectively, be stationed on both sides, with the function of observing and maintaining the Security Council cease-fire. As in the case of the stationing of United Nations Military Observers in the Suez Canal sector in July 1967, I am making this approach with a view to improving the situation in the Israel-Lebanon sector. I believe that the establishment of an observation operation at this time in this sector would be of real service to both parties and would provide an important means, at present lacking, of deterring incidents and of maintaining the cease-fire. I would be grateful if you would communicate this suggestion to your Government for its urgent consideration. It is my earnest hope that your Government will regard this proposal favourably and will advise me of its position promptly.

I am informing the Security Council of this communication to you and it is my intention also to inform the Council of the replies to it which I receive. If both replies are favourable, I will request the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, Lt. General Odd Bull, to consult immediately with the two Governments concerned and to recommend to me the number of additional Observers required and the necessary arrangements for their stationing on both sides in the Israel-Lebanon sector.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) U THANT  
Secretary-General"