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LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR H. BONNET TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, DATED 30 APRIL 1946

The French delegate to the Security Council of the United Nations,  
New York.

30 April 1946

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith a communication from my Government relating to the results of negotiations regarding the withdrawal of French troops from Syria and the Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would bring this document to the knowledge of the delegates to the Security Council.

I have the honour to remain, etc.

HENRI BONNET.

To His Excellency Hafiz Pasha  
President of the Security Council  
Hunter College  
New York.

At its meeting in London on 16 February 1946, when it considered the presence of foreign troops in Syria and the Lebanon, the Security Council was asked to vote on the following motion submitted by the United States delegate:

"The Security Council takes note of the statements made by the four parties and by the other members of the Council; expresses its confidence that the foreign troops in Syria and the Lebanon will be withdrawn as soon as practicable, and that negotiations to that end will be undertaken by the parties without delay; and requests the parties to inform it of the results".

Although the vote taken on this motion did not of itself carry any legal force, the French Government immediately declared that it would abide by the decisions of the majority. In fulfilment of this undertaking it has the honour to bring to the knowledge of the members of the Security Council that the negotiations undertaken with the various parties concerned have resulted in an agreement, the terms of which are stated below:

1. As regards Syria the French Government and the British Government have jointly made the necessary arrangements so that the evacuation of Syrian territory may be fully carried out by 30 April 1946.
2. As regards the Lebanon there took place, in pursuance of conversations between French and British experts, conversations in Paris with the Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who accepted the invitation to Paris extended to him by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs at the end of the discussions in the Security Council, with a view to exploring with him the method most likely to result in an agreement between the two Governments in accordance with the motion of the Council.

In accordance with these conversations the French Government, by a note dated 19 March, informed the Lebanese Government that the time limits recommended by the military experts could be brought appreciably closer if

the Lebanese Government for its part undertook to grant the French command in the Levant the full support of the public services and of the Lebanese Army for the transport, guarding, and embarkation of material. At the same time the French Government asked the Lebanese Government to agree to the setting up of a joint Franco-Lebanese military staff.

In the event of the Lebanese Government's agreeing to promise its full support in this connection the French Government stated that, for its part, it was ready to reduce the time limits previously contemplated in the following manner. The withdrawal of French troops as a whole from Lebanon could be completed by 31 August 1946. From 31 August to 31 December 1946 the French Government would retain in the Lebanon only a group of thirty officers and approximately three hundred technicians in order to ensure control over and transport of material; the departure of these last mentioned elements would have to take place not later than 31 December. Lastly, in order to meet a wish expressed by the Lebanese Government, the French Government stressed its desire to ensure the withdrawal of the bulk of fighting forces before <sup>30</sup>~~31~~ June 1946. The Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the French Government on 21 March that these proposals were acceptable to his government. He undertook, further, to make available to the French command the full co-operation of public services and of the Lebanese Army for the technical operations in connection with embarkation.

In pursuance of this agreement the French and Lebanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs exchanged letters on 23 March 1946, the text of which has been published in the press, noting the happy outcome of the negotiations recommended to the parties in the resolution proposed to the Security Council on 19 February.