



Security Council

PROVISIONAL

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 31 July 1989, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. PEJIC

(Yugoslavia)

Members:

Algeria
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Malaysia
Nepal
Senegal
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America

Mr. DJOUDI
Mr. ALENCAR
Mr. KIRSCH
Mr. DING Yuanhong
Mr. PEÑALOSA
Mr. TADESSE
Ms. RASI
Mr. BLANC
Mr. GHAZALI
Mr. RANA
Mr. BA
Mr. LOZINSKIY

Mr. BIRCH
Mr. PICKERING

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The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (S/20742)

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the period 25 January 1989 to 21 July 1989, which is contained in document S/20742.

Members of the Council also have the following documents before them: S/20733, letter dated 13 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General; and S/20755, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 639 (1989).

As a result of consultations held among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized, as President of the Security Council, to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The members of the Security Council note with deep regret and sorrow that during the current mandate period UNIFIL has suffered additional loss of life and other casualties as a result of various serious incidents in the area of its deployment, including the harassment of its personnel by various armed groups and forces.

"The members of the Council convey in this regard their deep-felt sympathy and condolences to the Governments of Ireland, Norway and Sweden and, through them, to the bereaved families of the victims, and pay tribute to the valiant action, courage and self-sacrifice manifested by all the members of UNIFIL, in the service of the ideals of peace in the region.

"They take note with great concern of reports appearing today that Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins may have been murdered in Lebanon and, should these reports prove to be true, express their outrage that such a cruel and criminal act should be committed against an officer who serves the United Nations on a peace-keeping mission in Lebanon. They draw attention to Security Council resolution 638 (1989), adopted this morning, and condemn all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and demand the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons wherever and by whomever they are being held.

"Given the serious situation in the zone of UNIFIL operations, the members of the Security Council consider it important to reaffirm their profound concern over the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel, who are exposed to constant threats and danger.

(The President)

"The members of the Security Council note with appreciation that, as stated in the Secretary-General's latest report on UNIFIL (S/20742),

'significant efforts have been undertaken to improve further the security of UNIFIL personnel and facilities' (para. 37)

during the current mandate period.

"They call upon all parties to do their utmost in order to ensure the effective reinforcement of the security of the members of the Force and to enable UNIFIL to carry out its mandate, as laid down in Security Council resolution 425 (1978)."

I have no speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.