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LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1984 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in pursuance of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978.

As indicated in my last report on UNIFIL (S/16776), the Government of Senegal had decided to terminate its participation in UNIFIL. In accordance with this decision, the repatriation of the Senegalese battalion began on 21 October and was completed on 1 November 1984. With the departure of the Senegalese battalion, the number of troops of UNIFIL has been reduced to approximately 5,200, well below its authorized strength of 7,000.

In response to my approach, the Government of Nepal has now informed me that it is willing to provide a battalion of approximately 650 men to replace the Senegalese contingent. As you know, Nepal had already provided a battalion for service with UNIFIL from April 1978 to May 1980 and again from June 1981 to November 1982. On both occasions, the Nepalese battalion served with great distinction. It is my intention to accept the offer of the Nepalese Government, subject to the usual consultations.

I should be most grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the Members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR