



**Security Council**

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS  
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(for the period 23 January 1988-25 July 1988)

Introduction

1. In its resolution 609 (1988) of 27 January 1988, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further interim period of six months, until 31 July 1988. The Council also reiterated strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries; re-emphasized the terms of reference and general guidelines of the Force as stated in the report of the Secretary-General of 19 March 1978, approved by resolution 426 (1978), and called upon all parties concerned to co-operate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate; and reiterated that UNIFIL should fully implement its mandate as defined in resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978) and all other relevant resolutions. The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned on the implementation of the resolution and to report to the Council thereon.

2. On 14 March 1988, I submitted to the Security Council a special report concerning the kidnapping, on 17 February 1988, of Lieutenant-Colonel William Richard Higgins, an officer of the United States of America serving as Chief of the military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assigned to assist UNIFIL in the performance of its tasks (S/19617). I regret to inform the Council that Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins remains in captivity, despite continuing efforts to obtain his release.

Organization of the Force

3. As of July 1988, the composition of UNIFIL was as follows:

Military personnel

Fiji	HQ UNIFIL	17	
	Infantry battalion	644	
	Force Mobile Reserve	32	
	Military police	<u>8</u>	701
Finland	HQ UNIFIL	9	
	Infantry battalion	508	
	Force Mobile Reserve	17	
	Military police	<u>9</u>	543
France	HQ UNIFIL	24	
	Composite battalion, (maintenance company, defence company, armoured escort company)	468	
	Military police	<u>10</u>	502
Ghana	HQ UNIFIL	45	
	Infantry battalion	816	
	Force Mobile Reserve	33	
	Military police	<u>7</u>	901
Ireland	HQ UNIFIL	33	
	Infantry battalion	646	
	Force Mobile Reserve	17	
	HQ Camp Command	36	
	Military police	<u>12</u>	744
Italy	HQ UNIFIL	4	
	Helicopter unit	44	
	Military police	<u>4</u>	52
Nepal	HQ UNIFIL	21	
	Infantry battalion	807	
	Force Mobile Reserve	23	
	Military police	<u>5</u>	856
Norway	HQ UNIFIL	31	
	Infantry battalion	661	
	Force Mobile Reserve	32	
	Maintenance company	165	
	Military police	<u>17</u>	906

Sweden	HQ UNIFIL	17	
	Logistic battalion	609	
	Force Mobile Reserve	5	
	Military police	8	639
	TOTAL UNIFIL		5.844

The deployment of UNIFIL as of July 1988 is shown on the annexed map. (It should be noted that areas under Israeli control north of the UNIFIL area are not shown.)

4. With effect from 1 July 1988, Lieutenant-General Gustav Hägglund of Finland relinquished his command of the Force and returned to national service. He was succeeded by Major-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden.

5. UNIFIL was assisted by 64 military observers of UNTSO. These unarmed officers are organized as Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) and are under the operational control of the Commander of UNIFIL. They manned the five observation posts along the Lebanese side of the Israel-Lebanon armistice demarcation line; the post at Château de Beaufort was closed in February. The military observers also operated three mobile teams in the part of the area of operation that is under Israeli control. Another five mobile teams, which had been assigned to the infantry battalions, were withdrawn after the kidnapping of Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins. Their functions were taken over by the battalions and by two field liaison teams set up by UNIFIL headquarters.

6. The Lebanese army unit serving with UNIFIL maintained a strength of 128 all ranks. The bulk of the unit was stationed at Tyre with small elements stationed at Arzun, Al Yatun and Qana.

7. Logistic support for UNIFIL was provided by the Swedish logistic battalion, elements of the French composite battalion, the Norwegian maintenance company and the Italian helicopter unit, as well as certain civilian sections (notably those responsible for communications and vehicle maintenance).

8. The security of its personnel and facilities remained a priority preoccupation of UNIFIL. In this connection, I have approved plans submitted by the Force Commander, involving the closing of some positions and the opening or strengthening of others. The Force Mobile Reserve, a composite mechanized company which comprises elements from 7 contingents, continued to function effectively as an integrated unit and was deployed during periods of tension and used for special tasks.

9. UNIFIL continued to have difficulty in obtaining the land and buildings it needs because the rents, for which the Lebanese Government is responsible, have remained unpaid since 1984 (see S/19445, para. 8). UNIFIL was in touch with the Lebanese authorities with a view to securing payment.

10. During the period under review, two members of the Force, an Irish and a French soldier, lost their lives in accidents. Fifteen soldiers suffered injuries; one as a result of hostile fire, 5 as a result of mine explosions and the others

as a result of accidents. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 153 members of the Force have died, 60 of them as a result of firing and mine or bomb explosions, 65 in accidents and 28 from other causes. Some 220 have been wounded by firing and mine or bomb explosions.

#### Situation in the UNIFIL area

11. The situation in the UNIFIL area of operation remained essentially unchanged. Israel continued to control in southern Lebanon an area manned by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the so-called "South Lebanon Army" (SLA). The boundaries of that area have not been clearly defined but are determined *de facto* by the forward positions of IDF and SLA. It includes the area adjacent to the international border, part of the Nepalese, Irish, and Finnish battalion sectors, the entire Norwegian battalion sector and sizeable areas to the north of the UNIFIL area of operation. Within the UNIFIL area of operation, IDF and SLA maintained 54 positions (see the annexed map). IDF personnel were observed in SLA positions on numerous occasions, especially at night.

12. Resistance groups continued to launch frequent operations against IDF and SLA, using small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, rockets and mortars, as well as mines and roadside bombs. UNIFIL recorded 19 such operations in January, 19 in February, 26 in March, 19 in April, 14 in May and 17 in June. Many more operations were reported from those parts of the Israeli-controlled area where UNIFIL is not deployed. In the UNIFIL area, most of the resistance operations remained limited in scope and involved mainly the use of mines or bombs and firing at IDF/SLA positions. However, on 28 January 1988, some 150 men carried out a co-ordinated attack on SLA positions at Rshaf and Brashit.

13. IDF/SLA continued to fire frequently from their positions or when on patrol. When attacked, they generally responded with heavy artillery, tank and mortar shelling; Israeli helicopter gunships were also employed. In some cases, IDF/SLA retaliated for attacks by shelling villages. The most serious of those incidents occurred on 7 May, when 77 shells were fired into several villages in the Irish battalion sector, and on 12 July, when 150 shells were fired into the village of Brashit in the same sector.

14. As in the past, IDF/SLA fired frequently at or close to UNIFIL positions; sometimes this occurred during exchanges of fire with armed elements, but very often the firing was unprovoked. During the period under review, UNIFIL protested more than 300 unprovoked firings to the Israeli military authorities. Friction with UNIFIL also resulted from the increased IDF/SLA activities in the Norwegian battalion sector that I noted in my last report (S/19445, para. 16).

15. IDF/SLA maintained their campaign to recruit local men into SLA. In the village of Chebaa in the Norwegian battalion sector, the mukhtar and a number of men were expelled at the end of May for refusing to co-operate with that campaign. They were allowed to return to their village in early June, after the United Nations had raised this matter with the Israeli authorities.

16. UNIFIL continued to co-operate with the Lebanese authorities, United Nations agencies and programmes, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non-governmental organizations in extending humanitarian assistance to the local population. In addition, troop-contributing Governments funded assistance to medical and welfare institutions and schools in the respective battalion sectors. As before, a large number of Lebanese civilians were treated at UNIFIL medical centres and some 5,000 were treated at the UNIFIL hospital at Naqoura, including about 250 in-patients.

#### Financial aspects

17. By its resolution 42/223 of 21 December 1987, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNIFIL at a rate not to exceed \$11,765,000 gross (\$11,618,000 net) per month for the 12-month period beginning 1 February 1988, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 599 (1987). By its resolution 609 (1988) of 29 January 1988, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL to 31 July 1988. Should the Council decide to extend UNIFIL beyond its current mandate period, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining the Force during a six-month extension period would be within the commitment authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 42/223, assuming continuance of the Force's existing strength and responsibilities. In the event that the current strength of the Force is increased or its mandate is extended beyond 31 January 1989, the Secretary-General will report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly during its forty-third session on the additional requirements needed for maintaining the Force. As at the beginning of July 1988, a total of \$282.9 million in assessed contributions to the UNIFIL Special Account remained unpaid.

#### Observations

18. It is with regret and concern that I have again to report to the Security Council that it has not been possible to make further progress towards attaining the objectives set out in its resolution 425 (1978), namely the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, the restoration of international peace and security and the re-establishment of the Lebanese Government's effective authority in the area. More than ten years have passed since UNIFIL was established. Yet Israel remains in occupation of large tracts of Lebanese territory both in the UNIFIL area of operation and to the north of it. Hostilities occur daily in southern Lebanon. And it has not proved possible to re-establish the central Government's authority. Although this state of affairs has become familiar, it is not one which can be accepted with equanimity, and the Security Council has been consistent in its refusal to do so.

19. The Lebanese authorities view with increasing frustration and apprehension the apparent permanence of the Israeli military presence on Lebanese territory. They reject this presence as a matter of principle and they are, moreover, convinced that its early withdrawal and the deployment of UNIFIL to the internationally

recognized boundary would improve considerably the prospects for solving the very serious problems facing Lebanon and for restoring government authority, an objective that is mentioned expressly in resolution 425 (1978).

20. The Israeli authorities, on the other hand, continue to take the position that the Israeli presence in Lebanon is a temporary arrangement, which is necessary for ensuring the security of northern Israel so long as the Lebanese Government is not able to exercise effective authority and prevent its territory from being used to launch attacks against Israel. They do not consider that UNIFIL, as a peace-keeping force, can assume this responsibility.

21. Like any sovereign State Israel has a legitimate interest in preventing its territory from being subjected to attacks from the territory of a neighbouring State. But, as I have stated repeatedly, I do not think that this interest is legitimately served by maintaining Israeli military forces in Lebanon, thus infringing on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

22. UNIFIL has continued to use its best efforts to prevent, or at least limit, hostilities and to shield the civilian population. It is a matter of regret that Israel has not been prepared to make further withdrawals on the lines of what was successfully achieved at Tallet Huguiban in October 1987 (see S/19445, para. 26). I also remain extremely concerned by the frequency with which the "South Lebanon Army" fires deliberately at or close to UNIFIL positions, thereby exposing their occupants to the risk of death or serious injury. These firings, which are inexcusable, have been the subject of almost daily protests to the Israeli military authorities and have also been taken up at the political level.

23. I am distressed that, in spite of continuous efforts by myself and senior members of the Secretariat, it has so far not been possible to end Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins' ordeal and reunite him with his family. I wish to underline that at the time of his abduction Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins was serving the United Nations, under the authority of the Security Council. I again appeal to any Member State having influence in this matter to do everything in its power to help secure the release of this officer.

24. The financial situation of the Force remains most unsatisfactory, as is evident from paragraph 17 above. I again urge Member States to pay promptly and in full their assessed contributions to the UNIFIL Special Account. The effect of present arrears and withholdings is that the troop-contributing Governments are reimbursed by the United Nations less than two thirds of the amounts due to them.

25. I wish to inform the Security Council that on 11 July 1988 the President of Lebanon, Mr. Amin Gemayel, addressed to me a letter, in which he urged that a new look be taken at the political situation in southern Lebanon and that an effort be made now to put Lebanon on the road to recovery. The letter states that Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory is by itself a provocative act that will generate legitimate national defence and acts of violence against it. It also refers to a consensus in Lebanon that only the legitimate authority of the State of Lebanon can bring about stability, peace and progress and that the provisions of resolution 425 (1978) should be fully implemented. President Gemayel goes on to ask that the

United Nations starts a new momentum. He suggests that it would be timely for the Secretary-General, with the backing of the Security Council and the diplomatic support of Member States, to renew efforts aimed at exploring practical steps that could be taken towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

26. I have also received a letter, dated 13 July 1988, from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, conveying his Government's request that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of six months, "on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 501 (1982), 508 (1982), 509 (1982) and 520 (1982) and of other relevant resolutions of the Security Council". The text of the letter has been circulated as document A/43/461-S/20014.

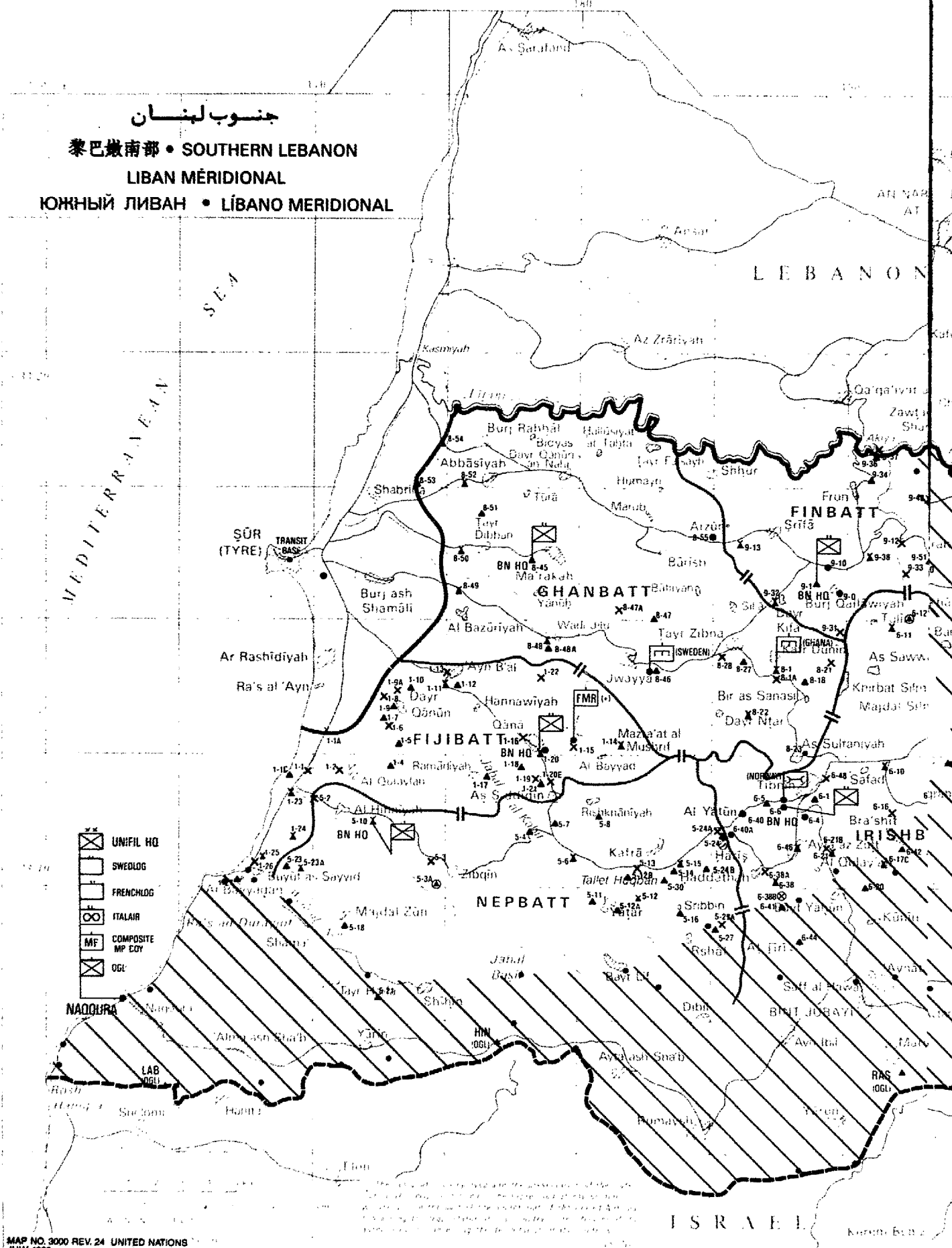
27. Although the situation of UNIFIL remains very unsatisfactory, I again feel obliged to recommend that the Council accept the Lebanese Government's request and renew the Force's mandate for a further period of six months. The Force continues to play an important role in controlling the level of violence in a very volatile situation which, without it, could quickly escalate into wider conflict. And it provides humanitarian support to the inhabitants of the area, a role which will be enhanced through co-operation between the Force and my newly appointed Special Representative for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon. But in making this recommendation I must again urge that the necessary efforts be made to bring about the Israeli withdrawal which the Council called for in its resolution 425 (1978), so that UNIFIL can undertake the task originally assigned to it.

28. Finally, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the new Force Commander, and to all the men and women under his command, both military and civilian, for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult assignment. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations. I also wish to pay a special tribute to Lieutenant-General Gustav Hägglund for his outstanding contribution in guiding the Force with great success through a very difficult period.

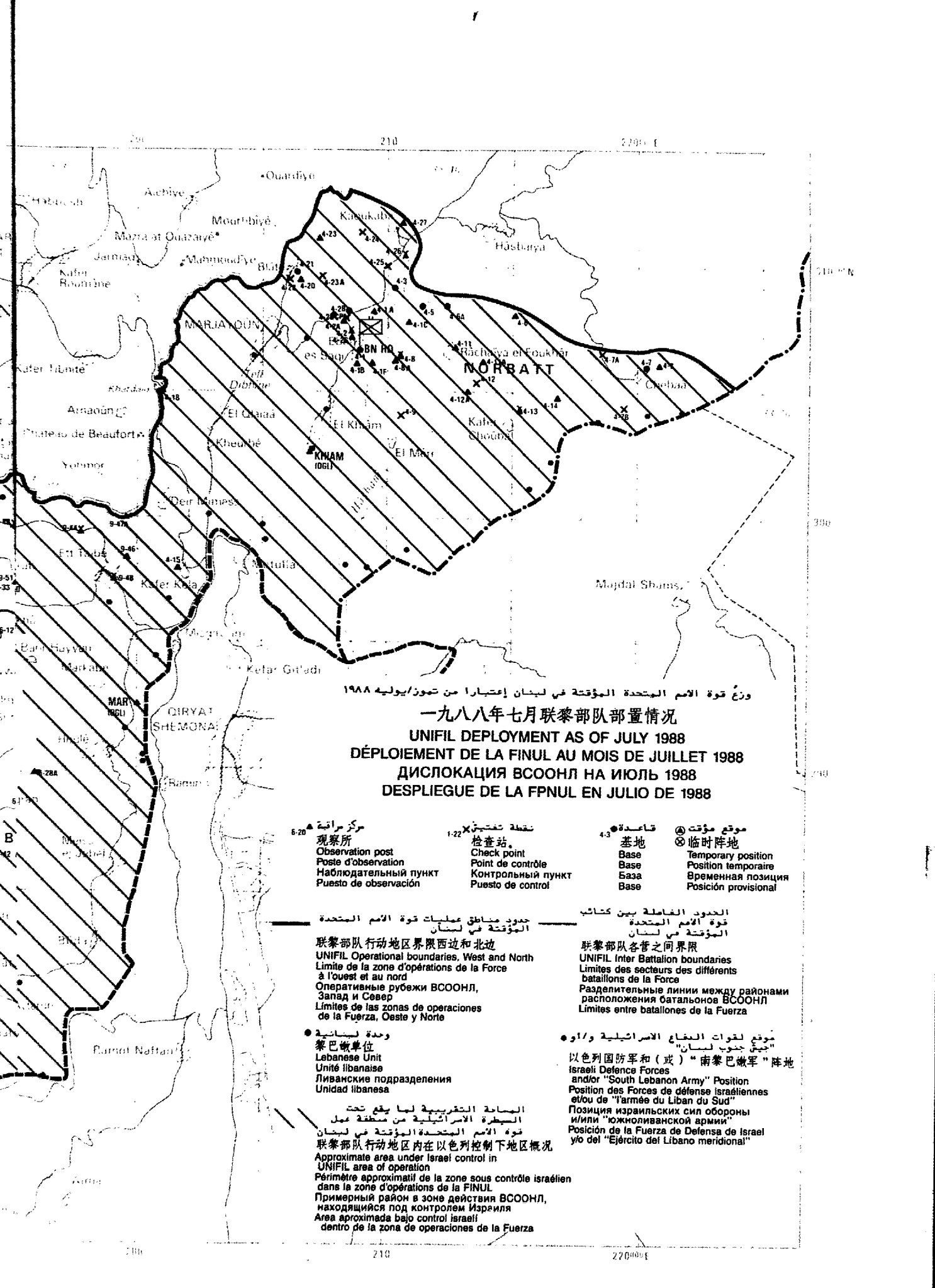
جنوب لبنان  
 黎巴嫩南部 • SOUTHERN LEBANON

LIBAN MÉRIDIONAL

ЮЖНЫЙ ЛИБАН • LIBANO MERIDIONAL







وضع قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان إعتباراً من تموز/يوليه 1988

一九八八年七月联黎部队部置情况

UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS OF JULY 1988

DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FINUL AU MOIS DE JUILLET 1988

ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНЛ НА ИЮЛЬ 1988

DESPLIEGUE DE LA FPNUL EN JULIO DE 1988

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 5-20 ● مركز مراقبة<br>观察所<br>Poste d'observation<br>Наблюдательный пункт<br>Puesto de observación | 1-22 ✕ نقطة تفتيش<br>检查站<br>Check point<br>Point de contrôle<br>Контрольный пункт<br>Puesto de control | 4-3 ● قاعدة<br>基地<br>Base<br>Base<br>База<br>Base | ④ موقع مؤقت<br>临时阵地<br>Temporary position<br>Position temporaire<br>Временная позиция<br>Posición provisional |
|---|--|---|---|

حدود مناطق عمليات قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان

联黎部队行动地区界限西边和北边  
UNIFIL Operational boundaries, West and North  
Limite de la zone d'opérations de la Force à l'ouest et au nord  
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНЛ, Запад и Север  
Límites de las zonas de operaciones de la Fuerza, Oeste y Norte

الحدود الفاصلة بين كتائب قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان

联黎部队各营之间界限  
UNIFIL Inter Battalion boundaries  
Limites des secteurs des différents bataillons de la Force  
Разделительные линии между районами расположения батальонов ВСООНЛ  
Límites entre batallones de la Fuerza

● وحدة ليبانية  
黎巴嫩单位  
Lebanese Unit  
Unité libanaise  
Ливанское подразделение  
Unidad libanesa

● موقع لقوات الدفاع الاسرائيلية و/او "جيش جنوب لبنان"  
以色列国防军和(或)"南黎巴嫩军"阵地  
Israeli Defence Forces and/or "South Lebanese Army" Position  
Position des Forces de défense israéliennes et/ou de "l'armée du Liban du Sud"  
Позиция израильских сил обороны и/или "южноливанской армии"  
Posición de la Fuerza de Defensa de Israel y/o del "Ejército del Líbano meridional"

المساحة التقريبية لما يقع تحت السيطرة الاسرائيلية من منطقة عمل قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان  
联黎部队行动地区内在以色列控制下地区概况  
Approximate area under Israeli control in UNIFIL area of operation  
Périmètre approximatif de la zone sous contrôle israélien dans la zone d'opérations de la FINUL  
Примерный район в зоне действия ВСООНЛ, находящийся под контролем Израиля  
Area aproximada bajo control israelí dentro de la zona de operaciones de la Fuerza