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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the proposed budget for the 12-month period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 for the maintenance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which amounts to \$139,547,600 gross (\$135,721,900 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind amounting to \$180,000.

Of the total budget, some 18 per cent of resources relate to civilian personnel costs. Operational requirements account for 21 per cent of the budget, military personnel costs reflect 57 per cent, while staff assessment comprises 3 per cent of the total.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 3 of the present report.

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I. Overview

1. The present report contains the proposed budget for the 12-month period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 for the maintenance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which amounts to \$139,547,600 gross (\$135,721,900 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind amounting to \$180,000.

2. Estimated requirements for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 represent a 0.4 per cent decrease (\$541,600) in total resources (gross) in relation to the apportionment for the current period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. The proposed decrease reflects a 1.9 per cent decrease in civilian personnel costs, a 2.7 per cent decrease in operational requirements, and a 1.8 per cent decrease in staff assessment costs. This decrease is partially offset by a 1.0 per cent increase under military personnel, and a 373.1 per cent increase in other programmes.

Table 1
Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

				<i>Proposed increase/ (decrease) over 1999/00</i>	
<i>Category of expenditure</i>	<i>1998/99 expenditures</i>	<i>1999/00 apportionment</i>	<i>2000/01 cost estimates <u>a/</u></i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Military personnel	76 149.7	79 242.0	79 987.6	745.6	1.0
Civilian personnel	22 285.8	26 051.1	25 560.2	(490.9)	(1.9)
Operational requirements	24 264.6	30 695.7	29 871.1	(824.6)	(2.7)
Other programmes	59.7	26.0	123.0	97.0	373.1
Staff assessment	3 586.7	3 894.4	3 825.7	(68.7)	(1.8)
Gross requirements <u>b/</u>	126 346.5	139 909.2	139 367.6	(541.6)	(0.4)
Voluntary contributions	132.0	135.0	180.0	45.0	33.3
Total	126 478.5	140 044.2	139 547.6	(496.6)	(0.4)

a/ Information on the distribution of resources by standard and mission-specific costs is contained in annex II.B.

b/ Exclusive of provision for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

Table 2
Human resources

<i>Military and civilian</i>	<i>1998/99 <u>a/</u></i>	<i>1999/00 <u>a/</u></i>	<i>2000/01</i>	<i>Increase/(decrease)</i>
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<i>staff resources</i>				<i>over 1999/00</i>
Military observers	-	-	-	-
Military contingents	4 513	4 513	4 513	-
Military liaison officers	-	-	-	-
Civilian police	-	-	-	-
International staff	146	147	141	(6)
National Professional staff	-	-	-	-
Local staff	344	344	350	6
United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-	-

a/ Represents highest level of authorized strength.

3. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are as follows:**

- (a) **To appropriate the amount of \$139,367,600 gross (\$135,541,900 net) for the maintenance of the mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;**
- (b) **To assess the amount of \$139,367,600 gross (\$135,541,900 net) at a monthly rate of \$11,613,966.70 gross (\$11,295,158.35 net), should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the mission.**

II. Political mandate of the mission

(Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978)

4. The mandate of the Force is to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, to restore international peace and security and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area of operations. UNIFIL has been prevented so far from implementing any part of that mandate. In the meantime, its task remains as laid down in the report of the Secretary-General of 19 March 1978 (S/12611), namely to ensure the peaceful character of its area of operations or, more precisely, of that part of the area which is not under Israeli occupation. In doing so, UNIFIL also affords a measure of protection to the civilian population.

5. The current mandate expires on 31 January 2000 (Security Council resolution 1254 (1999) of 30 July 1999).

III. Operational plan and requirements

6. Since completion in May 1996 of the streamlining of UNIFIL and the related 10 per cent reduction in its strength, with which the Security Council concurred in its resolution 1006 (1995) of 28 July 1995, without at the same time a corresponding reduction in its tasks and responsibilities, UNIFIL has maintained its operational effectiveness by placing greater emphasis on mobility and flexibility. This approach has been reflected in the budgetary requirements proposed for the mission in the recent past, the current and next financial periods.

7. Overall, a net reduction for the budget is proposed. However, where additional costs and requirements have been proposed, they relate to pressing and unavoidable needs to ensure optimum operational capability.

8. The continued replacement of vehicles is a high priority for the next financial period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. It is proposed to replace a higher proportion of military vehicles than that included in the current budget. In making these proposals, full account has been taken of the requirements to meet the age criteria for write-off and the fact that their unsatisfactory condition makes them no longer economical to maintain.

9. In addition, it is proposed to continue a five-year programme which began in 1997/1998 to replace prefabricated accommodation units which are more than 15 years old; and ablution units and kitchens/diners which are more than 10 years old. At the same time, the remaining facilities require ongoing refurbishment and maintenance. Concomitantly, it is necessary to replace accommodation furniture that has exceeded its useful life.

10. The programme to upgrade ageing communications systems to digital systems and replace obsolete military communications equipment through

the phased introduction of commercial radios is being continued.

11. As will be recalled, electronic data-processing (EDP) hardware and software were replaced during the 1998/1999 and current 1999/2000 financial periods to ensure year-2000 compliance. Concurrently, the EDP local area network is being rewired and upgraded. This work is ongoing and will continue during the next financial period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. Building on these enhancements, resources are requested in the proposed budget for maintenance and replacement of computer equipment and to pay for software licences. It is also essential to strengthen the staffing for EDP support.

IV. Contributions made under the status-of-forces agreement

12. A status-of-forces agreement was signed between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon on 15 December 1995. In accordance with the agreement, the Government extends privileges which include importation, free of duty or other restrictions, of equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods that are for the exclusive and official use of UNIFIL; provision without cost to UNIFIL of 79 buildings and areas for headquarters and camps; and exemption from any taxes or duties in respect of all official local purchases.

V. Voluntary contributions and trust funds

A. Voluntary contributions

(United States dollars)

<i>Government/organization</i>	<i>Contribution</i>	<i>1 July 1999-30 June 2000</i>	<i>1 July 2000-30 June 2001</i>
Switzerland	Air ambulance service <u>a/</u>		<u>a/</u>
Lebanon <u>b/</u>	Estimated reimbursement of rental charge for UNIFIL House in Beirut	135 000	180 000

a/ This service has been provided on a continuing basis since inception. The service was used on one occasion during the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, the value of which is not quantified.

b/ The Government of Lebanon began making this voluntary contribution in February 1998.

B. Trust funds

13. No trust fund has been established in support of UNIFIL.

VI. Status of reimbursement of troop-contributing Governments

14. The current troop contributors are the Governments of Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Nepal and Poland.

15. Full reimbursement in accordance with standard rates established by the General Assembly for troop costs had been made to the troop-contributing States through 30 April 1999. It is estimated that an amount of \$38.6 million is due for troop costs for the period ending 31 December 1999.

VII. Contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment

A. Method of reimbursement

16. No contingent-owned equipment agreements have yet been signed with the troop-contributing Governments of UNIFIL. However, negotiations with the Government of India are continuing. Nevertheless, for budgeting purposes, wet-lease rates which were applied for the first time for all UNIFIL contingent-owned equipment in the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 have been applied for the budget proposed for the next period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 as well.

B. Requirements

1. Major equipment

17. No provision for major equipment for the budgetary period is required.

2. Special equipment

18. The requirement for reimbursement of crew-served weapons to four contingents is estimated at \$296,820.

3. Self-sustainment

19. First-time provision is made for self-sustainment in the cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. The estimate of \$550,143 (see below) anticipates the conclusion of negotiations with the Government of India.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount (United States dollars)</i>
Explosive ordnance disposal	43 446
Laundry and cleaning	142 035
Medical	202 191
Observation	162 471
Total	550 143

4. Mission factors

20. Mission factors intended to compensate troop-contributing countries for extreme operating conditions in the mission area apply to the monthly reimbursable rates as indicated in the table below:

<i>Mission factors</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Extreme environmental condition factor	0.5
Intensified operational condition factor	-
Hostile action/forced abandonment factor	2.3
Incremental transportation factor	-

VIII. Staffing requirements

A. Changes in staffing requirements

	<i>Number of posts</i>		
	<i>Current staffing</i>	<i>Proposed staffing requirements</i>	<i>Net change</i>

International staff			
Under-Secretary-General	-	-	-
Assistant Secretary-General	1	1	-
D-2	-	-	-
D-1	2	2	-
P-5	4	4	-
P-4	4	5	1
P-3	10	11	1
P-2/P-1	1	-	(1)
Subtotal	22	23	1
General Service (Principal level)			
General Service (Other level)	45	41	(4)
Subtotal	45	41	(4)
Field Service	80	77	(3)
Security Service	-	-	-
Subtotal	80	77	(3)
Total, international staff	147	141	(6)
Local staff	344	350	6
National Professional staff	-	-	-
United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-
Subtotal	344	350	6
Total	491	491	-

21. The staffing establishment for UNIFIL for the next 12-month period commencing 1 July 2000 reflects the following proposed changes:

- (a) Establishment of one new Professional post at the P-3 level for a Supply Management Officer;
- (b) The reclassification of two Professional-level posts, namely, Budget Cost Control Officer (from P-3 to P-4) and Civilian Engineer (from P-2 to P-3);
- (c) Conversion of 3 General Service and 3 Field Service-level posts into 6 local-level posts;
- (d) Abolition of one General Service post in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;
- (e) Redeployment of one Field Service post from the Communications Section to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

22. Currently, UNIFIL does not have a single civilian staff member assigned the responsibility for managing the approximately \$1.5 million in resources allocated annually for supplies and services. Hence, the request to establish one new P-3 post for a Supply Management Officer, who, under the supervision of the Chief, Integrated Support Services, would be responsible for managing the supplies and services. Establishment of this post is expected to facilitate more efficient and economical use of such supplies and services items.

23. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 53/227 of 8 June 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue his efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the

requirements of the Force. Following a thorough and careful review of existing posts and their functions, it is proposed to convert 3 General Service staff posts (Finance Assistant, Administrative Assistant and Secretary in the Office of the Force Commander) and 3 Field Service posts (all from the Communications Section) into 6 local-level staff posts. Of these 6 local-level posts, 3 would be assigned to the Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Section and the other 3 posts would be assigned cleaner/kitchen helper functions for battalions and the Force Mobile Reserve. The strengthening of the EDP Section is an essential element of the Force's ongoing management and efficiency improvement efforts.

24. The detailed breakdown by office is shown in section B below.

B. Current and proposed staffing

		<i>General Service and related Categories</i>
Office of the Force Commander		
Military Support		

a/ Based on appropriation provided in General Assembly resolution 53/227.

a/ Other programmes represent less than 1 per cent of total resources.

b/ Total may not add up to 100 per cent because of rounding.

IX. Other issues

25. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227 of 8 June 1999, the General Assembly reiterated its request of the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 51/233 and paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, stressed once again that Israel should pay the amount of \$1,284,633 resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requested the Secretary-General to report on that matter to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

26. Pursuant to the adoption of those resolutions, that amount has been recorded under accounts receivable for UNIFIL and the Secretariat has addressed three letters to the Permanent Representative of Israel on the subject, to which no response has been received.

Annex I

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

A. Summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	<i>1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999</i>	<i>1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000</i>	<i>1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001</i>	
<i>Category of apportionment</i>	<i>Expenditures <u>a/</u></i>	<i>Apportionment <u>b/ c/</u></i>	<i>Total estimates</i>	<i>Non-recurrent estimates</i>
I. Military personnel				
1. Military observers	-	-	-	-
2. Military contingents	75 131.6	77 701.0	77 752.2	-
3. Other				

requirements pertaining to military personnel				
(a) Contingent-owned equipment	18.1	541.0	685.3	-
(b) Self-sustainment	-	-	550.1	-
(c) Death and disability compensation	1 000.0	1 000.0	1 000.0	-
Subtotal, line 3	1 018.1	1 541.0	2 235.4	-
Total, category I	76 149.7	79 242.0	79 987.6	-
II. Civilian personnel				
1. Civilian police	-	-	-	-
2. International and local staff	22 285.8	26 051.1	25 560.2	-
3. United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-	-
4. Government-provided personnel	-	-	-	-
5. Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
Total, category II	22 285.8	26 051.1	25 560.2	-
III. Operational requirements				
1. Premises/accommodation	2 866.5	2 693.4	2 867.8	1 328.0
2. Infrastructure repairs	-	-	-	-
3. Transport operations	11 273.6	17 660.5	15 831.1	6 946.2
4. Air operations	1 240.7	1 208.9	1 270.5	-
5. Naval operations	-	-	-	-
6. Communications	1 839.1	2 043.6	2 081.2	1 189.9
7. Other equipment	3 097.4	2 817.6	3 345.2	2 226.2
8. Supplies and services	3 517.3	3 888.4	4 092.0	-
9. Air and surface freight				
(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	-	-	-	-
(b) Commercial freight and cartage	440.0	383.3	383.3	-
Subtotal, line 9	440.0	383.3	383.3	-
Total, category III	24 274.6	30 695.7	29 871.1	11 690.3

IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	-	-	-	-
3. Training programmes	59.7	26.0	123.0	-
4. Mine-clearing programmes	-	-	-	-
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	-	-
Total, category IV	59.7	26.0	123.0	-
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	-	-
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-	-
VII. Staff assessment	5 364.8	3 894.4	3 825.7	-
Gross requirements, categories I-VII	126 356.5	139 909.2	139 367.6	11690.3
VIII. Income from staff assessment	(3 606.7)	(3 894.4)	(3 825.7)	-
Net requirements, categories I-VIII	122 749.8	136 014.8	135 541.9	11 690.3
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	135.0	180.0	-
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	132.0	-	-	-
Total	126 488.5	140 044.2	139 547.6	11 690.3

a As contained in annex I of the performance report (A/54/708). Excludes \$7,152,700 for the support account for peacekeeping operations and \$1,146,000 for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

b General Assembly resolution 53/227 of 8 June 1999.

c Exclusive of \$7,407,886 appropriated for the support account for peacekeeping operations and \$1,452,597 for the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

B. Distribution of gross requirements by major cost component a/ b/

C. Supplementary information

Military personnel

Apportionment: \$79,242,000; estimates: \$79,987,600; variance: \$745,600

1. The increase of \$745,600 under this heading is related to other requirements pertaining to military personnel, consisting of contingent-owned equipment (\$144,300) and self-sustainment (\$550,100).

Other requirements pertaining to military personnel

(a) Contingent-owned equipment

2. The estimate includes provision for the wet-lease costs of crew-served weapons assumed to be leased by the United Nations during the budget period in accordance with the new procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (\$296,820). The estimate also includes provision for reimbursement of the equipment provided for 28 patrol dogs (\$26,850), as well as ammunition requirements for operational use and zeroing-in and testing of heavy contingent-owned weapons (\$361,630).

(b) Self-sustainment

3. The estimate includes provision for reimbursement for self-sustainment for one troop-contributing government in accordance with the self-sustainment procedure approved by the General Assembly. The reimbursement covers categories of explosive ordnance disposal, laundry and cleaning, medical (basic and first-line), dental, general and night observation device.

Civilian personnel costs

Apportionment: \$26,051,100; estimates: \$25,560,200; variance: (\$490,900)

4. The decrease of \$490,900 under this heading relates to a reduction in international and local staff costs.

International and local staff

5. Salary calculations are based on a total of 491 posts (141 international and 350 local), including changes described in section VIII.A, paragraph 21, above. Based on experience, a vacancy factor of 5 per cent has been applied for international staff posts. In view of the fact that UNIFIL is a long-established mission and is a family mission, there are no mission appointees.

6. Salaries for 350 local staff posts were calculated based on level 4, step 9, net of the salary scales applicable to Beirut, effective 1 March 1998. Based on past incumbency experience, no vacancy factor has been applied.

7. The decrease in salary requirements for 2000/2001 compared with the apportionment for the 1999/2000 period is mainly due to the conversion of 6 international staff posts (3 General Service posts and 3 Field Service posts) into an equivalent number of local-level posts and the abolition of one General Service post.

8. The estimate of \$96,900 for other travel costs will finance travel of staff and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) auditors, as detailed in annex II.A.

Operational requirements

Apportionment: \$30,695,700; estimates: \$29,871,100; variance: (\$824,600)

9. The estimate of \$29,871,100 includes non-recurrent cost requirements, which amount to \$11,690,300.

10. The decrease of \$824,600 under this heading is attributable to a decrease of \$1,829,400 in transport operations, offset by an increase of \$1,004,800 in premises and accommodation (\$174,400), air operations (\$61,600), communications (\$37,600), other equipment (\$527,600), and supplies and services (\$203,600).

Premises/accommodation

11. The higher level of requirements under premises and accommodation is due primarily to increased requirements to maintain, asphalt and seal existing road systems within the UNIFIL areas of operation and to improve access to remote and isolated positions. Asphalt and sealing will also reduce wear and tear on United Nations vehicles, improve drainage around posts and greatly improve living and working conditions for United Nations personnel. The estimates under premises and accommodation also take account of the budgeted voluntary contribution of \$180,000 to be expected from the Government of Lebanon as reimbursement for the rental charges related to UNIFIL House in Beirut.

Transport operations

12. Overall requirements under this heading show a decrease of \$1,829,400, from \$17,660,500 to \$15,831,100. This is mainly because of the lower number proposed for replacement vehicles (118 compared to 415 during the current financial period). The proposed replacement of vehicles is based on the established replacement policy of 5 years or 120,000 kilometres for general purpose vehicles, 8 years or 135,000 kilometres for heavy trucks, and 10 years or 250,000 kilometres for heavy buses. The detailed breakdown for the replacement of 118 vehicles is shown in annex II.C.

13. Requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants (\$3,254,900), which show an increase of \$1,009,900, have been determined based on actual monthly consumption statistics during the 1998/1999 financial period and taking into account the latest market prices (as of 2 January 2000) for petrol, oil and lubricants, as detailed in annex II.A.

14. Provision for vehicle insurance (\$492,300) covers the cost of third-party liability insurance carried by the Force for its fleet of vehicles at the rate of \$490 per vehicle for 913 general purpose vehicles; \$400 each for 105 armoured personnel carriers; and at \$50 each for 58 units of mobile equipment, as described in annex II.A.

Air operations

15. Requirements under this heading for the hire/charter of the helicopters (\$1,266,500) are detailed under item 16 of annex II.A. Increased costs for liability and war-risk insurance, for aviation fuel and lubricants, and for positioning/depositioning costs take account of the most recent contract rates.

Other equipment

16. The overall estimate under this heading of \$3,345,200 shows an increase of \$527,600. This is attributable to the non-recurrent requirement of \$2,226,200 to replace a large amount of equipment which is obsolete, worn-out or beyond economical repair, as described in annex II.C.

17. In this connection, it is noted that much of the office furniture of UNIFIL is in very poor condition as a result of long and extensive usage. With regard to data-processing equipment, during the last three financial periods UNIFIL has replaced only 254 out of 526 desktop computers, i.e., less than 50 per cent of current holdings. In the case of laptop computers, 38 out of 55, representing 69 per cent of the current holdings, were replaced during the last three financial periods. The established replacement policy for EDP equipment allows for replacement of up to 25 per cent of computers based on a replacement cycle of four years. The 2000/2001 EDP equipment replacement proposals include the replacement of 132 desktops and 14 laptops, which are equivalent to 25 per cent of current holdings.

Supplies and services

18. The estimate of \$4,092,000 under this heading reflects an increase of \$203,600. This increase is mainly attributable to the increased requirement under medical treatment services, field defence stores, and quartermaster and general stores. As a result of the restructuring of the UNIFIL hospital facilities and services provided as recommended by the United Nations Headquarters Medical Service, and the reassignment of military hospital staff among the contingents, UNIFIL has outsourced the contracting of a variety of laboratory and biochemical tests, fumigation, and orthopaedic treatments.

19. The increased requirement under field defence stores and quartermaster and general stores is due to the need to budget fully for procurement of these items, some of which were previously available from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. Moreover, it is imperative to replace and upgrade current fragmentation jackets.

Other programmes

Apportionment: \$26,000; estimates: \$123,000; variance: \$97,000

Training programmes

20. The increased requirement of \$97,000 under this heading is mainly related to technical training, including travels for training in the areas of finance, procurement, communications, EDP and transport as detailed in annex II.A.

Staff assessment

Apportionment: \$3,894,400; estimates: \$3,825,700; variance: (\$68,700)

21. The amount budgeted under this heading represents the difference between gross and net emoluments, that is, the amount of staff assessment to which the United Nations staff members are subject, in accordance with the Staff Regulations of the United Nations. The staff assessment for 141 internationally recruited staff is estimated on the basis of the 2000/2001 standard cost rates for New York, while the staff assessment for 350 local staff is estimated by using the scale currently applicable in the mission area.

Income from staff assessment

Apportionment: (\$3,894,400); estimates: (\$3,825,700); variance: \$68,700

22. The staff assessment requirements provided for under expenditure budget line VII have been credited to this item as income from staff assessment and will be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955. Member States are given credit in the Fund in proportion to their rates of contribution to the UNIFIL budget.

Annex II

Cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001: analysis

A. Standard and mission-specific costs

Force Commander to NY	Additional costs as explained in annex I.C, para 18.				
Senior adviser	Petrol - benzene 96				
Within mission area					
Staff for short course/training	122,970				
Mission assessment for HQs staff	Management training in UNIFIL				
Aviation specialist	Communication, technical				
Internal auditor	Sun system				
COE procedure training	Transport				
Press and information officer	Administration including budget, finance and procurement				
Included under training programme	Skill development videos				
5 per cent vacancy factor applied.	Travel for training				
14. Petrol, oil and lubricants b/					
Military Police accommodation in Israel					
Additional costs as explained in annex I.C, para. 18.					

B. Distribution of resources by budgetary cost parameters: standard and mission-specific costs

C. Non-recurrent requirements

(Thousands of United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated)

Annex III

Implementation of previous recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

<i>Request</i>	<i>Response</i>
The Advisory Committee noted an over-encumbrance of 4 per cent for local staff resulting from the conversion of general temporary assistance to local staff, as reported in the financial performance report for the period 1997/1998. The Committee was of the opinion that better management could have avoided that over-encumbrance. (A/53/895/Add.1, para. 33)	The Secretary-General's proposal in this report to convert 6 international posts (3 General Service posts and 3 Field Service posts) into 6 local-level posts will address the problem.
With regard to the replacement of data-processing equipment and year-2000 compliance, the Committee	The requirement for year-2000 compliance and the need to be able to introduce new software

was of the opinion that mission-critical equipment should have priority and that the rest should be retained until its replacement cycle comes due. The Committee believed that phasing out the equipment would be more cost effective. (A/53/895/Add.1, para 52 and A/53/895, para. 27)	applications mitigated against a further delay in the replacement of EDP equipment. As shown in the Secretary-General's 2000/2001 request for replacement of the UNIFIL EDP programme, normal phase-out has been proposed.
The Committee recommended that a study be made to determine the most effective way of disposing of unusable vehicles, and urged regional cooperation among UNTSO, UNIFIL, UNDOF and UNFICYP. (A/53/895, para. 40)	Discussions have taken place between the respective chief administrative officers and the topic is under review.
The Committee had noted a considerable rate increased for worldwide third-party liability coverage of vehicles in several missions, such as UNIKOM and UNIFIL, resulting from the high number of incidents in the past. The Committee requested that measures be taken to control the sharp increases in mission vehicle insurance costs, both by stricter safety and security measures in the missions and through negotiation of rates with insurance providers. (A/53/895, para. 42)	UNIFIL has sought to increase driver safety and accident awareness and a formal campaign is to be implemented. Speed checks by military police have been increased. A number of access roads to isolated United Nations positions have been, or are scheduled to be, asphalted and sealed to improve driving conditions.

During the meetings held on 22 and 23 February 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and UNIFIL, the Advisory Committee had requested that information be provided on the estimated cost to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) of direct support to UNDOF and UNIFIL. Since then, the Secretariat has been providing such information on a regular basis. The table below provides requisite information for the bienniums 1998/1999 and 2000/2001:

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization: estimates of direct support provided to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2001

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1998/1999	2000/2001
1. Posts	1 069.0	1 086.7
2. Other staff costs	2 720.8	2 469.6
3. Travel	950.2	991.8
4. General operating expenses	178.5	217.8
5. Supplies and material	152.7	73.2
6. Equipment	181.2	14.8
Total	5 252.4	4 853.9

Annex IV

Organization chart