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LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Lebanese Government has decided to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 January 1993, 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) and 509 (1982) and of all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

Since the last renewal of UNIFIL, the Government of Lebanon is pleased to report auspicious developments including the formation of a new government comprising trusted and competent ministers headed by Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. Its formation was welcomed by the Arab world and the international community owing to its broad base of local support and strong commitment to the implementation of the Taif Agreement. The Hariri Government has well commenced its agenda to broaden and strengthen national reconciliation, to accelerate the process of reconstruction and development, and to promote national stability and security through social, economic and administrative reform and the liberation of occupied Lebanese territory. Partial fulfilment of this agenda has greatly enhanced the strength and stability of Lebanon, as is indicated by the numerous reconstruction and development proposals put forth by international financial institutions.

Furthermore, my Government is pleased to report that perfect coordination exists between the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army, the priority of which is deployment of the latter to the entire south of the country up to its internationally recognized boundaries.

However, in spite of these positive developments, Israel is determined to undermine the efforts of the Government of Lebanon to consolidate national unity and territorial integrity. Irrespective of and contrary to the participation of both countries in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Israel has intensified its efforts to destabilize Lebanon by perpetuating its brutal

occupation of the south. Since July of last year, the Lebanese Government has submitted numerous letters of complaint to the Secretary-General detailing routine bombardments, air raids and attacks by the Israeli military and its proxies against Lebanon's citizens, property and sovereignty.

Recently, in spite of the protests of the Lebanese Government, Israel uprooted 415 Palestinian civilians from their homes in the middle of the night and deported them to Lebanon in violation of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the principles of the United Nations Charter. The Security Council strongly condemned that action through its adoption of resolution 799 (1992) on 18 December 1992, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported. Israel, despite the dispatch of two envoys of the Secretary-General to ascertain Israel's implementation of resolution 799 (1992), has refused to implement it.

Throughout 14 months of negotiations, Lebanon has worked earnestly to secure the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). However, Israel refuses to implement this and all other pertinent resolutions, thus defying the authority of the Council and the United Nations Charter. Owing to the interminable and malevolent nature of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and the threat Israel's continued occupation poses to the peace process, the time has come for the Security Council to demonstrate its clout as the ultimate guarantor of Member States' compliance with international law.

Further, the time has come for the Security Council to invoke Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to force Israel's compliance with its resolutions. That Member State cannot remain above the law and Lebanon implores the Council to take new and vigorous steps to bring an end to Israel's renegade status through the prompt implementation of its resolution 425 (1978) and the galvanization of its mechanism set out in resolution 426 (1978), which will enable the Lebanese Government to extend its authority over the entire south of the country up to its internationally recognized boundaries.

In this context, the presence of UNIFIL continues to remain of utmost necessity to provide much of the needed assistance and international support for the civilian population faced with the brute and arbitrary nature of the Israeli occupation. However, this assistance cannot be a substitute for the fulfilment of UNIFIL's original mandate as stipulated in Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which is to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and to assist the Government of Lebanon, through the Lebanese Army and internal security forces, in re-establishing its legitimate and effective authority in the area.

The Lebanese Government takes this opportunity to pay a tribute to the UNIFIL command, troops and administrators, and to the troop-contributing countries for their efforts and sacrifices in serving the cause of peace. It also expresses its deep appreciation for the tireless endeavours of the Secretary-General and his assistants, which are instrumental in the valuable presence and mission of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
