



Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTH MEETINGHeld at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 September 1986, at 11.30 a.m.

President:	Mr. BELONOGOV	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Members:	Australia	Mr. HOGUE
	Bulgaria	Mr. GARVALOV
	China	Mr. LI Luye
	Congo	Mr. BALE
	Denmark	Mr. BIERRING
	France	Mr. de KEMOULARIA
	Ghana	Mr. DUMEVI
	Madagascar	Mr. RAKOTONDRAHBOA
	Thailand	Mr. KASEMSRI
	Trinidad and Tobago	Mr. MOHAMMED
	United Arab Emirates	Mr. AL-SHAALI
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. BIRCH
	United States of America	Mr. OKUN
	Venezuela	Mr. AGUILAR

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The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.

EXPRESSION OF WELCOME TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I wish first of all warmly to welcome the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar.

We are extremely pleased, Mr. Secretary-General, to see you here in your accustomed place at the Council table. We are very happy that you have won your battle with illness and that you look just as we would wish to see you: fully recovered, energetic and full of spirit. I express to you the warmest best wishes.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council this month, I should like to pay a deserved tribute, on behalf of the Council and on my own behalf, to my predecessor, His Excellency Mr. D.H.N. Alleyne, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, for his dedicated service as President of the Council for the month of August. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing our admiration and deep appreciation to Ambassador Alleyne for the great diplomatic skill and unfailing courtesy with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): On this the first occasion when I join you at a formal meeting of the Security Council, I should like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the warm welcome extended to me since I assumed my duties as the new Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations, and assure you of my full co-operation in our common efforts.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/18318)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Lebanon in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fakhoury (Lebanon) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting today in response to a request contained in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council on 4 September 1986 by the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (S/18318).

The Secretary-General of the United Nations wishes to make a statement. I call upon him.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL (interpretation from French): Mr. President, first of all I should like to thank you for your extremely kind words.

The Security Council is meeting today in very difficult and grievous circumstances. As I have had the opportunity to inform the members of the Council through the President, a series of violent incidents took place in the UNIFIL zone between 11 and 22 August, during which two Lebanese and one member of the Irish contingent were killed and several soldiers of the French contingent were wounded. After 22 August, there was a quiet period during which UNIFIL made an effort, with the co-operation of the Lebanese authorities and leaders of the Amal movement, to reduce tension and re-establish calm in the region.

Unfortunately, despite those efforts, a serious incident occurred during the morning of yesterday, Thursday, 4 September, when three French soldiers were killed by a remote-control bomb near the village of Joya in the sector of the French contingent. The Commander of the Force immediately ordered an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident, and preliminary reports make it perfectly clear that the bomb was detonated deliberately.

In a press communiqué released yesterday, I most vigorously condemned this cowardly attack upon members of the French contingent of UNIFIL.

(The Secretary-General)

I also wish to inform the Council that this very morning some 30 Israeli soldiers carried out a helicopter raid in the village of Zibqin in the sector of the Nepalese contingent. UNIFIL immediately dispatched two mobile teams to the village, and the Commander of the Force protested against the raid to the Israeli authorities. According to the preliminary report of the Force Commander, an Israeli soldier was killed during the operation and four Lebanese villagers were taken away by the Israelis.

These recent incidents most tragically stress the extremely difficult conditions in which the soldiers of UNIFIL must work. As the Security Council is already aware, I decided to send to the region a mission of inquiry to consider, together with the Lebanese Government, measures to be taken to ensure that the Force is able to carry out effectively, in the required secure conditions, the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in its resolution 425 (1978). Because of the incident of yesterday morning, I moved up the date of the departure of that mission. The mission, which is headed by Mr. Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, left New York last night.

Mr. Goulding will submit to me the recommendations of his mission as soon as possible, and naturally I shall report to the Security Council as soon as I receive them. Of course, I shall do everything possible within the limits of my competence and authority to avoid a recurrence of the recent incidents, to strengthen the security of the members of UNIFIL and to enable the Force to carry out its mandate. But here I must recall that, as is the case with all United Nations peace-keeping operations, UNIFIL does not have coercive power, and its soldiers may resort to the use of force only in legitimate self-defence. That being so, UNIFIL can carry out its mandate only if all the parties involved extend to it the required co-operation and if it benefits from the confidence and unreserved support of the Security Council, from which it derives its legitimacy and authority. Those

(The Secretary-General)

two conditions are absolutely essential, given the difficult and complex circumstances in southern Lebanon.

I should like to express to the French and Irish Governments, as well as to the families of the victims of these recent incidents, my sympathy and profound condolences.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the courage and dedication demonstrated by the members of all the UNIFIL contingents in carrying out their difficult and dangerous mission.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Governments of those countries that send contingents to the Force for the co-operation and support they are so generously giving that important United Nations peace-keeping operation in the Middle East.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): As a result of consultations held among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the members of the Security Council.

"The members of the Security Council express their deep sorrow at the grave and distressing attacks which killed several members of the Irish and French contingents of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. These attacks come after various serious incidents in the recent past, in particular those of 11 and 12 August, in the course of which a number of members of the Force were injured. The members of the Council express their indignation at such resort to deliberate violence, which places in jeopardy the safety of the members of the Force.

"They convey their sympathy to the afflicted families and pay tribute to the qualities of composure, courage and self-sacrifice manifested collectively by all the members of UNIFIL, in service of the ideals of peace of the Organization.

(The President)

"Given the worsening of the situation in the zone in which UNIFIL operates, the members of the Security Council consider it essential to adopt with all urgency measures aimed at the effective reinforcement of the security of the members of the Force and request the Secretary-General to undertake all necessary steps to that effect.

"The members of the Security Council express their appreciation to the Secretary-General for his immediate dispatch of a mission led by the Under-Secretary-General, which is to carry out, in consultation with the Lebanese Government, an in-depth examination of the measures to be taken to enable UNIFIL to carry out its mandate, as laid down in Security Council resolution 425 (1978), effectively in the necessary conditions of security.

"They invite the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council, as soon as possible, the report which he will prepare following the mission.

"The members of the Council unanimously express their confidence in the Secretary-General and the Commander of the Force in the current difficult circumstances."

The first speaker is the representative of France, on whom I now call.

Mr. de KEMOULARIA (France) (interpretation from French): First, Mr. President, I wish to express to you our best wishes for a successful presidency. My delegation has already witnessed your exceptional courtesy and the flexibility and high quality of your diplomacy.

I also wish to tell the Deputy Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago how much we appreciated the presidency of Ambassador Alleyne.

I join you, Mr. President, in saying how happy we are to have the Secretary-General back among us in excellent form.

France asked for an urgent meeting of the Council because of the rapid deterioration of the situation in southern Lebanon. Two very serious attacks have taken place, only a few days apart, costing the life of an Irish officer and three French soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Those attacks follow serious incidents in which, for a month now, members of several contingents of the force have in turn fallen victim, particularly, as everyone recalls, and as the Secretary-General has just mentioned, 16 French soldiers on 11 and 12 August.

My Government has condemned those attacks in the strongest terms. It welcomes the expressions of sympathy to UNIFIL and the contributing countries by the people and the Government of Lebanon. But the present situation, in which soldiers of an international force serving peace are cut down in a cowardly manner, has become intolerable. It must be ended immediately.

When proposing last April that the Council decide on a short mandate, we wished to lead the international community to evaluate UNIFIL's work better. Our appeal was heeded. The Secretariat immediately entered into consultations with the parties concerned and a dialogue began. In giving for the first time unanimous support for the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate, on 18 July, the Security Council showed that the international community as a whole would from now on measure up more to its responsibilities.

(Mr. de Kemoularia, France)

We must, however, note that the persistent efforts made have not yet succeeded. UNIFIL is still not in a position to carry out its mission in the essential conditions of security and effectiveness. That is why, after the incidents of 11 and 12 August, we made the President of the Security Council aware of the need for a general review of the substantive problems facing UNIFIL in fulfilling its mandate, with a view to drawing the appropriate conclusions. In that context, as was our desire, the Secretary-General has sent to the area with extreme urgency a high-level mission to assess the situation.

The most recent attacks have made the situation even more precarious and dangerous. It is no longer possible to carry on waiting. Therefore, France is pressing for the urgent adoption of measures aimed at strengthening the security of all the members of the Force. Accordingly, we note with satisfaction - and we thank the Secretary-General for this - the immediate dispatch of Mr. Goulding to the area. We expect that he will without delay take all the necessary practical measures and that the Secretary-General will submit to us all appropriate recommendations.

But it is also important that we undertake a general review of the kind that we have called for, dealing with all the substantive problems in the way of the accomplishment of the Force's mission. To that end, we ask that in the course of his mission Mr. Goulding should gather together all the factors requiring assessment and review, so that the Council may reach its conclusions.

We hope that the Secretary-General will, as he has just announced, present to the Council as soon as possible his report on Mr. Goulding's mission tell us of his proposals.

I should not wish to conclude this statement without paying tribute to the Secretary-General's action and the courage and dedication of the officers and soldiers of UNIFIL.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of France for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. DUMEVI (Ghana): Mr President, allow me at the outset to welcome you as the head of the Soviet delegation to the Security Council and to express our pleasure at seeing you preside over the Council's work as President for this month. This pleasure derives from the excellent relations between your country and mine. My delegation had the opportunity to meet you briefly when you made your calls on Missions a few weeks ago. We have no doubt that your vast experience, wisdom and skill will greatly help in the Council's work. We can assure you, Sir, of the full co-operation of the Ghana delegation.

We also wish to place on record, Sir, our profound appreciation of the excellent manner in which your immediate predecessor, Ambassador Alleyne of Trinidad and Tobago, handled the Council's affairs last month. We in the Ghana delegation have excellent relations with Ambassador Alleyne and his delegation, relations stemming not only from our shared interests as members of the Non-Aligned caucus on the Council, but also from the useful counsel which we in the Ghana delegation have had the privilege of enjoying from the Trinidad and Tobago delegation.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome the new Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom delegation, Mr. Birch, to the Security Council.

I wish on behalf of the Ghana delegation to convey, through you, Sir, to the Governments of France and Ireland and to the bereaved families the deepest sympathies of the Government of Ghana for the cruel loss of life occasioned by the new attacks on French- and Irish-held positions in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area. As a representative of a country which has a long list of nationals killed while serving in United Nations peace-keeping operations, including UNIFIL, I convey our sentiments with a heavy heart.

(Mr. Dumevi, Ghana)

In its concept and practice, peace-keeping is an innovative technique evolved by the United Nations to stabilize serious crisis situations while searching for peaceful solutions. Over the years this practice has helped defuse tension and has allowed the cooling-off periods necessary for peaceful negotiations. It has been one of the most useful tools in the hands of the Security Council in ameliorating conflict situations. It is therefore in the interest of all that the concept and the practice of peace-keeping operations should not be impaired. The Ghana delegation, therefore, would like to congratulate the French delegation on its noble initiative.

Although my delegation would have preferred a more balanced text, we nevertheless support the statement read out by the President, because of its general objective.

The fact remains, however, that the major causes of this cycle of violence in UNIFIL's area of operations are the so-called security zone unilaterally demarcated by Israel and the presence of Israeli forces and Israeli-sponsored armed groups in southern Lebanon. The history of this cycle of violence and the resultant killings show that in all cases the incidents originate principally from the local population's resentment of the presence of Israeli forces in the area. It is such sentiments that have driven them to force their way through UNIFIL check-points. In the ensuing arguments, tempers rise and gun-fire is exchanged resulting in the killing and wounding of UNIFIL soldiers.

It follows that the way to eliminate such tragic incidents as those that occurred yesterday is for Israel to withdraw its troops from Lebanon in order to enable UNIFIL to fulfil its mandate. It is hoped that those possessing political leverage with Israel will muster the political will necessary to prevail upon Israel to withdraw its troops to the international boundary.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of Ghana for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Lebanon, upon whom I now call.

Mr. FAKHOURY (Lebanon) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to express our complete confidence in your experience and in your ability properly to guide the proceedings of the Council.

I wish also to convey to your predecessor, His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, our appreciation and thanks for the way in which he presided over the work of the Council last month.

I should like to take this opportunity also to welcome the presence at the Council table of the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, and to wish him a complete recovery from his illness.

The Council is meeting today at the request of France, a friendly country, against a distressing backdrop of incidents and acts of aggression against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) - specifically against its French and Irish contingents. The victims of these incidents have been Lebanese civilians, and officers and men of UNIFIL.

The Lebanese Government and Lebanese officials have condemned all such incidents and have expressed their deep sorrow and pain at the tragic aftermath. On behalf of the Government and the people of Lebanon, my delegation wishes to convey its deep, heartfelt condolences to the Governments and the peoples of France and Ireland, to the members of UNIFIL, to all troop-contributing countries, and to the families of the victims. We stress that the Lebanese Government will never spare any effort in contributing to the safety of the members of UNIFIL.

(Mr. Fakhoury, Lebanon)

At Government and popular levels alike, Lebanon is unanimous in its wish to demonstrate complete support for UNIFIL. We express our support for the presence of the Force in Lebanon and our desire to ensure its safety. We insist on enabling UNIFIL to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it under Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and subsequent resolutions. We have been steadfast in that genuine unanimity, as demonstrated in more than one forum and on more than one occasion. Once again, we express our great and profound appreciation of the role played by UNIFIL, of the voluntary contributions by troop-contributing States, and of the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General and his associates.

In its peace-keeping activities, UNIFIL has paid a high price indeed since its creation. Its mission is a lofty one, and the sacrifices made by those of its members who have fallen in the line of duty will not be in vain. Their noble memory will live in the minds and hearts of Lebanon; we view their sacrifices as a symbol of sincere co-operation among nations in the service of peace and in the defence of fairness and justice.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of Lebanon for the kind words he addressed to me.

I wish now to make a statement in my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

I too wish to convey my sincerest sympathy to the Governments of Ireland and France and to the families of the soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) who have perished in Lebanon. There is no question but that armed acts of provocation against United Nations forces deserve condemnation and must be stopped.

(The President)

These tragic events have once again emphasized the dangerous and abnormal conditions in which United Nations forces in Lebanon must operate owing to the fact that for a long period of time now they have been deprived of the possibility to carry out unhampered the duties entrusted to them by the Security Council. In that connection, we believe it necessary once again to state that it is the Council's direct duty vigorously to work for the implementation, as soon as possible, of its resolution 421 (1978) on the basis of which those forces were created.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are no further speakers for this meeting. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

