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S/PV.2751
31 July 1987

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED
AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 31 July 1987, at 11.30 a.m.

President: Mr. BLANC

(France)

Members: Argentina
Bulgaria
China
Congo
Germany, Federal Republic of
Ghana
Italy
Japan
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zambia

Mr. BEAUGE
Mr. GARVALOV
Mr. LI Luye
Mr. BALE
Mr. LAUTENSCHLAGER
Mr. DUMEVI
Mr. BUCCI
Mr. KIKUCHI
Mr. TIMERBAEV
Mr. AL-SHAALI

Sir Crispin TICKELL
Mr. WALTERS
Mr. PABON GARCIA
Mr. ZUZE

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (S/18990)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): 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 French): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the period 12 January to 24 July 1987, contained in document S/18990.

Members also have before them the following documents: S/18999, letter dated 16 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, and S/19008, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

(The President)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now. There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Argentina, Bulgaria, China, Congo, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The result of the voting is as follows: there were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has therefore been unanimously adopted as resolution 599 (1987).

I shall now call on Council members wishing to make statements following the voting.

Sir Crispin TICKELL (United Kingdom): It will come as no surprise to you, Sir, to learn how glad I am to see you presiding over our meeting today. Having worked closely with you in the complex negotiations that led to the adoption of resolution 598 (1987) earlier this month, I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the professional skills you bring to your office.

My delegation welcomes the unanimous vote by which the Council has decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, in accordance with the request made by the Government of Lebanon. We are most grateful too for the useful and comprehensive report presented by the Secretary-General in document S/18990.

My Government continues to support the deployment of UNIFIL with the aim, set out in resolution 425 (1978), of securing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the Lebanese Government's effective authority in the area. There can be

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United Kingdom)

no doubt that, as the Secretary-General has observed, the withdrawal of the Force would create a vacuum which could cause the present conflict to intensify and spread.

It must be a matter of serious concern to us all that since the Council last renewed UNIFIL's mandate no progress has been made towards giving effect to resolution 425 (1978). It is particularly disappointing that there has been no change in the position of the Government of Israel which would allow this to take place. We believe, as does the Secretary-General, that the main problem lies in Israel's refusal to complete its withdrawal from Lebanese territory and its retention of a so-called security zone in the area.

We must all be glad that the casualties suffered by UNIFIL have declined significantly over the last few months. We nevertheless extend our sympathies to the families of the five members of the Force who lost their lives during the period covered by the Secretary-General's report and, indeed, to the families of all those members of UNIFIL who have been killed while serving with the Force. It is distressing that hostile action against UNIFIL has continued; we condemn this, from whatever quarter it originates. It is imperative that all parties should co-operate fully with UNIFIL in the exercise of its mandate from this Council.

We are pleased to see that UNIFIL's provision of humanitarian assistance to the local population in its area of operation has continued. It is important that the work of the relief agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross should continue unhindered.

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My delegation has consistently drawn attention to the precarious financial situation of UNIFIL. We were concerned to see from the Secretary-General's report that this has continued to deteriorate. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, it is unfair, just to put it mildly, to expect the countries contributing troops to the Force to carry an extra and heavy financial burden as a result of the withholding by some Member States of their assessed contributions. Member States should pay promptly and in full both their current assessed contributions and the backlog of arrears which some have built up.

Finally, I pay tribute to Major-General Hägglund, the Force Commander, and to all those under his command, for the skill, courage and determination with which they have continued to carry out the difficult task entrusted to them by the Council.

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

Mr. TIMERBAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Security Council has just renewed, once again, the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The need for the adoption of such a decision, which the Council unanimously endorsed, is dictated by the fact that the situation in the southern part of that country remains, as we can see from the Secretary-General's report, extremely unstable. The responsibility for that situation, as the report itself directly points out, is borne by Israel, whose determination to retain control of its so-called security zone continues to impede efforts to restore peace in the southern regions of Lebanon.

What in actual fact does the Israeli occupation really bring to the Lebanese people? I shall cite just one example. According to the media, in El Khiam prison alone there are 500 patriots who are being subjected to systematic torture; people are dying there. At the same time, the occupation authorities do not allow the

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representatives of the International Red Cross to ascertain the situation of these prisoners. This is yet another piece of evidence as to the inhumane nature of the actions taken by Tel Aviv with regard to the Lebanese patriots who are fighting the Israeli occupation.

We must, unfortunately, note once again that Israel continues to disregard the demands of the Security Council to withdraw its troops and clearly intends to perpetuate its occupation of southern Lebanon and to continue to use that region to strike deep inside Lebanese territory.

Under these circumstances there has never been a more pressing need for an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from the whole of the territory of Lebanon. The presence of UNIFIL must promote a solution of that task, as is made perfectly clear in its mandate.

It is obvious that the question of guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be considered in the overall context of the attainment of a just and peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict, the kind of settlement that would ensure the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the territories they occupy, the realization of the right of all States and peoples in the region, including Israel, to peace and a secure existence and the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. We are convinced that the focal point of efforts to bring about such a settlement must be a plenipotentiary international conference held under United Nations auspices, with the participation on an equal footing of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the permanent members of the Security Council. It is essential to proceed without delay to prepare for such a conference.

As the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, emphasized, such a conference

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"constitutes in actual fact the only sensible and effective way of putting an end to the long-standing state of war in the Middle East and of establishing there a stable peace. It should achieve this without further bloodshed, intrigues or deals arranged by some behind the backs of others, and taking due account of the legitimate interests of all the interested parties."

This is our position of principle with regard to the settlement of the Middle East question as a whole and with regard to the problems of south Lebanon as one aspect of such a settlement. We call upon all the members of the Security Council to exert the greatest possible effort to attaining a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of France.

The Security Council has just once again decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a period of six months, thus responding favourably to the request made to it by the Government of Lebanon. France has supported this request by its affirmative vote, as it has always done in the past.

My country's unswerving attitude demonstrates its commitment to UNIFIL and to its role in the context of the situation in southern Lebanon, in spite of the difficulties the Force has encountered in the implementation of its mandate.

That commitment has, of course, caused us to feel growing concern at the violent and often deliberate actions that are still being engaged in by different sides against the Force.

We deeply regret such behaviour and wish to associate ourselves with the new appeal by the Secretary-General that UNIFIL and its staff be treated with the respect due members of a peace-keeping force.

(The President)

Of course, under these conditions my country attaches the greatest importance to the security problems that the UNIFIL contingents are confronting. In this respect we cannot fail to express our deep appreciation for the security measures and new operational procedures introduced by the Commander of the Force and to say how pleased we are to see that those measures are contributing to a considerable reduction in losses of human life.

My Government, which has carefully studied the Secretary-General's report submitted on 24 July 1987, unreservedly supports the conclusions contained therein, in particular those that relate to the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), as well as to Israel's refusal to withdraw completely from Lebanon and the harmful consequences of that attitude on the efforts made to restore international peace and the stability of the region.

(The President)

As France sees it, there can be no doubt that the presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon remains, in the words of the Secretary-General, "an essential element of stability" in the region. Its very presence demonstrates the will, expressed once again today by the international community, to see the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon restored and respected.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

The representative of Lebanon wishes to speak. I call upon him.

Mr. FAKHOURY (Lebanon) (interpretation from Arabic): It is a pleasure for the Lebanese delegation to see you, Sir, presiding over the Security Council as it meets to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). We wish again to express our full confidence in your skill and diplomatic experience as you guide its work.

It is also a pleasure for the delegation of Lebanon to extend to Ambassador Adouki, the Permanent Representative of the Congo, thanks and appreciation for his wise presidency of the Council last month.

The situation in southern Lebanon continues explosive and fraught with tension. In paragraph 28 of his report (S/18990), the United Nations Secretary-General describes the situation as follows:

"UNIFIL soldiers are carrying out their responsibilities in a highly volatile part of the world".

Israel continues to occupy Lebanese territory, which it calls a security zone - a zone it uses as an advance base for its forces and the militias under its wing to perpetrate all kinds of acts of aggression against Lebanon.

In paragraph 25 of his report the Secretary-General states that the "refusal of Israel to withdraw completely and its insistence on maintaining the 'security zone' continue to thwart efforts to start a process to restore international peace and stability in the area".

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In paragraph 29, the Secretary-General states:

"As there has been no change in the position of the Government of Israel, it has again proved impossible to make progress towards implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which requires complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon."

Those quotations provide further evidence that it is Israel that is hampering implementation of the resolutions of this Council; it is Israel that is preventing the international Force from fulfilling its mandate.

Although the report - for which the Secretary-General deserves our thanks and appreciation - is limited to incidents and acts of aggression in the theatre of operations of the international Force, it indicates the extent of the threats facing civilians, their property and livelihoods, and the international Force itself in the region.

In paragraph 16, the report states that most of the firing by the Israeli forces has been unprovoked and apparently deliberate. On a daily basis, the Force has been fired on either by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) or the so-called South Lebanon Army (SLA). If that is indeed the situation in the theatre of operations of the international Force, the members of the Council can well imagine the situation outside that theatre.

Letters of complaint by Lebanon have been distributed as official documents in previous months. The latest such letter, dated 28 July, clearly shows the kinds of acts of aggression perpetrated daily by Israel against the southern part of our country and its population, and indeed against areas far from the southern international borders such as the Bekaa Valley, the mountainous regions and the northern part of the country.

Lebanon's view on the explosive situation in southern Lebanon coincides with that of the Secretary-General. Lebanon's demands also coincide with the

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conclusions reached by the Secretary-General in his report concerning the need to implement Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and subsequent resolutions pertaining to this issue calling for a full, comprehensive and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, deployment of the international Force to internationally recognized borders and assistance to the Lebanese Government to enable it to extend its sovereignty and authority to all Lebanese territory.

The so-called security zone inside Lebanese territory cannot, and indeed does not, guarantee peace and stability for either Israel or its forces. No attempt to justify the occupation as a preventive measure can fool anyone. There is only one way to make the southern region a zone of peace and security: Israel must heed the resolutions of the Security Council and allow the international Force fully to fulfil its mandate.

My delegation wishes to comment on paragraph 30 of the Secretary-General's report, which states:

"In these circumstances - the continuing Israeli presence and the inability of the central Government of Lebanon to exercise effective authority - violence persists in the southern part of the country."

Twice in previous years Lebanon has attempted to send regular forces to the south. On both occasions those forces have been directly attacked by the forces of Israel and its satellite militia - the so-called "Southern Lebanese Army". That description is erroneous and misleading, because it is not a question of inability on the part of the Lebanese Government, which remains determined to send its forces to the south as soon as the Security Council can overcome the real difficulty - the fact that the international Force has been rendered unable to fulfil one of the main missions entrusted to it, which is to assist the State of Lebanon in extending its sovereignty and authority to all Lebanese territory. Elements of the Lebanese

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of the international Force. As the Secretary-General reports, on 24 June last an officer of the rank of captain serving in Tyre as liaison officer to the international Force was killed.

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UNIFIL plays an important role in Lebanon. Its presence is essential for stability; it is the best possible means available to achieve peace and security in the region. The protection that the Force extends to the population of the region and, indeed, the humanitarian services it renders to the population deserve full thanks and appreciation.

However, the Force's substantive mission is wider than that. It includes the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Council. Lebanon once again demands that the Force be allowed to implement those resolutions and fully implement its mandate.

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General and his assistants for their sincere efforts to achieve that end. We also express our appreciation to the Force and its Commander, General Hägglund, and to its officers, soldiers and administrators. We thank them for their devotion in working in such difficult circumstances. Lebanon further pays tribute to all contributing States. We express our deepest regret that members of some units have lost their lives and others have been injured. Those losses and injuries were suffered while the men concerned were engaged in one of the most sacred duties - the maintenance of peace and security.

The time has come, after nine and a half years, for the people of southern Lebanon to see an end to their tribulations; the time has come for us to allow them to live in peace and security; the time has come to spare them the daily fear of losing their loved ones, the destruction of their property and livelihood and the dispersion and forced emigration practised by Israel and its militias.

We have great confidence in the Security Council, and in the light of the unanimous adoption of the resolution extending UNIFIL's mandate we are ever more hopeful that the Council will indeed take a strong stand to ensure the

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implementation of its resolutions and support for the Secretary-General in his endeavours, and enable the international Force to fulfil its mission.

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

I should like to inform members of the Council that I have just received a letter from the representative of Israel 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. Bein (Israel) took the place reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I invite the representative of Israel to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. BEIN (Israel): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Your wisdom, skill and broad experience have been clearly evident in the way in which you have guided the particularly challenging work of the Council this month. I also commend your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of the Congo, for the distinguished manner in which he conducted the Council's work last month.

The Security Council is meeting today to discuss the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which it has just approved. In his report (S/18990), the Secretary-General stresses that UNIFIL's situation has

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remained essentially unchanged over the last six months. The Government of Israel agrees with that assessment.

We have just heard an assessment of the situation by several representatives. Let me put the matter in its proper perspective.

Terrorists continue to use southern Lebanon as a base for cross-border attacks against Israel. Katyusha rockets launched from terrorist strongholds land in northern Israel. Terrorists continue their attempts to infiltrate Israel's border. Citizens of Israel and its northern population centres continue to be the direct targets of terrorist attacks originating in southern Lebanon. Facing this threat, Israel will continue to make every effort to protect and safeguard its citizens and the northern towns and villages in which they live.

The Government of Israel has reiterated its policy regarding Lebanon many times in the past. We have no designs on Lebanese territory. The security zone is a temporary arrangement until such time as the Lebanese Government is able to take effective control of the situation in southern Lebanon and guarantee peace and security along the border. Indeed, my delegation notes that in paragraph 30 of his report the Secretary-General recognizes that a major reason for the violence in southern Lebanon is the "inability of the central Government of Lebanon to exercise effective authority" (S/18990, para. 30). We hope that this situation will change some time in the future.

The instability in southern Lebanon is only part of the even greater tragedy facing the entire country. There is simply no central authority in Lebanon that can end the chaos and violence. The murder of Lebanon's Prime Minister in June this year demonstrates that even the most senior Government officials are not immune from this violence. In the south, bands of PLO and other terrorists

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continue to fight each other, terrorize the local population and attempt to carry out attacks against Israel.

It is under these extremely dangerous conditions that the brave soldiers of UNIFIL must carry out their mandate. UNIFIL undoubtedly plays an important role in trying to maintain stability in the area under its control, and it has suffered painful casualties in the process. The Government of Israel believes that every effort should be made to ensure the security of UNIFIL in order to safeguard the lives of its soldiers. Israel has conveyed its willingness to co-operate fully with the United Nations in this regard.

In conclusion, in view of the circumstances which I have just outlined, Israel cannot, at this stage, contemplate a change in the existing security arrangements on our northern border until its integrity and security can be otherwise adequately guaranteed. Israel remains ready to consider any viable proposal that would adequately take account of its legitimate security concerns.

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

There are no further speakers on my list 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 12.20 p.m.