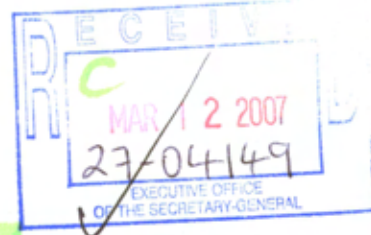


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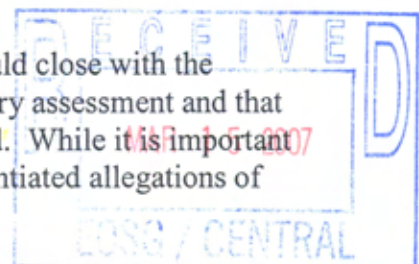
**CONFIDENTIAL**

UNIFIL

Note to Mr. Williams

**Draft report of the Secretary-General on resolution 1701**

1. Further to your note of 8 March, we offer the following comments on the draft text of the next report on resolution 1701.
2. The report as a whole is an accurate reflection of a very complex situation; there are however a few places where we feel that it **does not strike quite the right balance**. Bearing in mind that this is a report conveying the facts as understood by the Secretary-General and his observations thereon, **the Secretariat should avoid turning parts of the document into a platform for the positions of the parties**. The following text stands out as tending too much in this direction:
3. Para. 23: The second sentence is problematic as it **seems to place Israel as the arbiter of the status of the security situation in south Lebanon**. This approach **undermines** the role and authority of the UN/UNIFIL as well as the LAF, and could feed public criticism of UNIFIL in Lebanon as having been deployed for the sole purpose of **protecting Israel**. We would also suggest that the third sentence be deleted (resulting in a merger of paras. 23 and 24), since this is merely a claim by one of the parties which has **not been backed up by tangible proof** -- and is **arguably contradicted** by UNIFIL's reporting.
4. Para. 29: We would be inclined to remove this paragraph, perhaps retaining the first sentence as part of para. 28. We would also recommend deletion of the words "intelligence" and "political and peacekeeping" in the first sentence of para. 28, so that the sentence would open, "Over the last few weeks the GOI has provided a series of detailed briefings to senior UN representatives ..." We would also suggest deletion of the last sentence of para. 28 as redundant. Overall, **our view is** that the Israelis have presented their briefing to several key members of the Security Council, as it is their prerogative to do, but it is not necessary or appropriate for the Secretary-General's report to **carry their message for them**. This section makes its point adequately and impartially without that paragraph.
5. Paras. 56 and 57: These paragraphs would be improved by deletion of the references both to the growing criticism in Israel and to the Lebanese Prime Minister's frustrations.
6. Para. 62: It is our **strong opinion** that this paragraph should close with the observation that authentication would require independent military assessment and that the phrase, "**the information provided was persuasive**" be deleted. While **it is important** that the Secretary-General indicate that he takes seriously substantiated allegations of



breaches of the arms embargo, we believe first, the report does that, and second, to find the claim persuasive while at the same time noting the need for independent assessment is inconsistent, and goes further than warranted. Of additional concern is that this statement would be received on the ground in Lebanon in such a negative way that the reaction could put UN personnel at risk. Altogether, the benefit to making this observation is minimal and the political and security risks great. (Please also delete "political and peacekeeping as in para. 28, and the word "sourced" whose meaning is not clear.)

7. One other matter of substance: We would recommend deletion of the last sentence of para. 26. By this point in the report, we have made the matter of Hizbollah activities clear. Moreover, to have this sentence follow from the previous implies that the LAF Commander meant Hizbollah when he spoke of "unauthorised armed elements". This is not at all clear from his remark and is in fact unlikely.

8. Our other comments are mainly editorial. In para.13, DPKO/UNIFIL's suggested text included the word "abandoned" in reference to the unauthorised arms UNIFIL has encountered. We would recommend that word be re-inserted, or the text be revised in some way to reflect that the vast majority of the weapons or caches found were clearly abandoned, old or redundant. In para. 61, we would suggest the following modifications to the third and fourth sentences: "I am concerned by the reported activities (delete "very") of unauthorized armed elements outside of UNIFIL's area of operations. The successful implementation of res. 1701 (2006) depends upon honouring the relevant provisions of ...". Lastly, in para. 64, there is an error in the last sentence where "to consider" appears twice.

  
for Jean-Marie Guéhenno  
12 March 2007

cc.: Mr. Nambiar  
Mr. Pascoe