

UNIFIL

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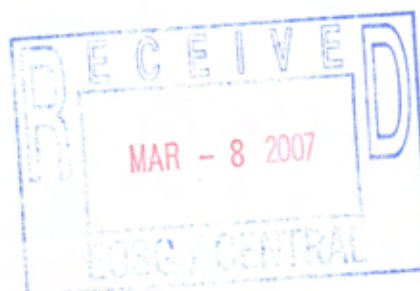
**Note to Mr. Williams**

**Inputs for report to the Security Council on resolution 1701 (2006)**

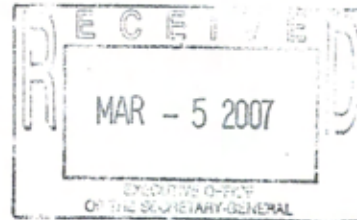
1. Further to your note of 14 February 2007 requesting inputs for the Secretary-General's fourth report to the Security Council on the status of the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), please find attached draft input provided by UNIFIL and DPKO.
2. The input outlines the key events that have occurred in UNIFIL's area of operations since 1 December 2006, noting in particular the incidents that occurred on 5 February and 7 February 2007. It also notes the broader state of security arrangements with the Lebanese Armed Forces, and liaison and coordination arrangements with both the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces. We also address recent alleged activities of Hizbollah inside and nearby the UNIFIL area of operations, and have noted recent statements of the Hizbollah leader, Sayyed Nasrallah. A number of observations are also included in this input.
3. During the course of this week, we will be submitting a couple of paragraphs concerning the conclusions of the border assessment team's latest visit to Lebanon. We are also seeking additional material from UNIFIL with more precise dates and references to certain activities of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and will provide those as soon as possible.

*JM* *H. Guéhenno*  
Jean-Marie Guéhenno  
5 March 2007

cc: Mr. Nambiar ✓  
Mr. Pascoe



Report of the Secretary-General on the  
implementation of Security Council resolution  
1701 (2006)



I Introduction

II Implementation of Security Council resolution 1701  
(2006)

Respect for the Blue Line

1. Since my letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 1 December 2006, the military and security situation in the UNIFIL area of operations has been generally stable. However, the cessation of hostilities was breached by a serious incident that occurred along the Blue Line on 7 February 2007.

2. On 7 February, the IDF informed UNIFIL of its intention to cross the Israeli technical fence that night, near the Lebanese village of Maroun Al-Ras, to clear a number of suspected mines identified north of the fence on Israeli territory. The LAF conveyed through UNIFIL that, should the IDF cross the technical fence during the night, it would be difficult to ensure that no violation of the Blue Line occurred. The LAF stressed that it would not accept the planned IDF night-time operation and would open fire should this occur. Rather, it proposed the action be suspended until the following day. The UNIFIL Force Commander urged restraint and emphasized to the LAF that this action would constitute a breach of the cessation of hostilities and a violation of

resolution 1701 (2006). While acknowledging Israel's security concerns, the Force Commander also urged the IDF to suspend its action and to resolve the matter by relaying its concerns through UNIFIL's liaison channels and the holding of an urgent tripartite meeting. In the meantime, UNIFIL deployed two platoons to the area to establish a buffer zone between the LAF and the IDF, and later increased its strength to a company of mechanized infantry, reinforced by a tank platoon and supported by artillery, with another mechanized infantry company in reserve close by.

3. Despite the Force Commander's appeals, the IDF proceeded with the operation during the night. The LAF at first fired warning shots after the IDF made an opening in the fence, and then intensified fire towards the IDF bulldozer, which had passed through the fence but was still on the Israeli side of the Blue Line. The IDF responded by firing a missile. While the UNIFIL Force Commander, through his contacts with the parties, was able to negotiate a ceasefire, subsequently the IDF bulldozer and accompanying excavator violated the Blue Line when carrying out earthworks to clear the suspected mines.

4. The Force Commander convened a tripartite meeting with senior representatives of the IDF and LAF on 12 February and presented them with UNIFIL's report of the incident. The report's findings concluded that both parties had violated resolution 1701 (2006) through their actions that night. He recommended that the Blue Line be visibly marked in sensitive areas, that the agreed coordination and liaison arrangements be brought into force, and called on the parties to make use of the



tripartite coordination mechanism in order to avoid similar incidents in the future.

5. The serious violation of resolution 1701 (2006) came only two days after the IDF had taken unilateral action to destroy other suspected improvised explosive devices detected near the Blue Line at the same location. On this occasion, the IDF informed UNIFIL of the devices but, before UNIFIL and LAF patrols could arrive at the scene, opened fire, detonating one and causing two others to burn out. Subsequently, a UNIFIL team established that the devices were located some meters north of the Blue Line and that IDF rounds had therefore violated the line and impacted inside Lebanese territory. As a result of this action, evidence was destroyed and UNIFIL was not in a position to determine whether the devices had been laid before or after the cessation of hostilities took effect in August 2006.

6. Subsequent to the two incidents described above, UNIFIL has reported an increased level of tension along the Blue Line. There have been several reports that IDF and LAF soldiers on either side of the line have aimed weapons at each other in the area of Fatima Gate. Most recently, on 2 March, a Lebanese youth approached the Blue Line next to UN position 8-33, and despite warnings from UNIFIL, started digging in the ground on the Lebanese side adjacent to the Blue Line. The IDF ordered the boy at gunpoint to cross the Blue Line into Israel, and to climb over the technical fence, where he was taken into custody. He was released to UNIFIL personnel later in the day.

7. Throughout the period under review, UNIFIL continued to report Israeli air violations of the Blue Line, through IDF jet and unmanned aerial vehicle over-flights. The incursions into Lebanese airspace continue on an almost daily basis. The Government of Lebanon continues to protest the over-flights as a serious violation of Lebanese sovereignty and a violation of resolution 1701 (2006), while the Government of Israel continues to maintain that the over-flights are a necessary security measure that will continue until the two abducted Israeli soldiers are released and respect for the full arms embargo, established in paragraphs 14 and 15 of resolution 1701 (2006), is implemented. On 21 February, the LAF responded to alleged Israeli over-flights by firing off [a round :UNIFIL please check] of anti-aircraft fire near Tyre.

8. UNIFIL also reported a number of minor ground violations of the Blue Line from the Lebanese side, mainly by local shepherds. I am concerned by all violations of the Blue Line, which also constitute violations of resolution 1701 (2006). I would remind the parties that any crossing of the Blue Line, whether planned or inadvertent, endangers the fragile calm that prevails in southern Lebanon.

9. I am pleased to report that both parties have now agreed to UNIFIL's proposal to visibly mark the Blue Line in sensitive areas, particularly in locations where there is a significant distance between the line and the Israeli technical fence. UNIFIL, in close coordination with the LAF and the IDF, is in the process of erecting markers at selected points, in order to prevent inadvertent violations. Regular LAF patrols along the

Blue Line have also contributed to providing better security and preventing violations by civilians on a number of occasions. The LAF has also enhanced control of Lebanese territorial waters south of Naqoura to prevent violations of the buoy-line by local fishermen.

#### **Security arrangements**

10. There have been no significant changes in LAF deployment within the UNIFIL area of operations since my letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 1 December 2006. There are three LAF brigades (two light infantry and one heavy infantry) deployed along the Blue Line, and another brigade in the area of Tyre. The LAF maintain a total of 142 positions in the UNIFIL area of operations, of which 45 are along the Blue Line. 114 of the LAF positions are checkpoints.

11. UNIFIL continues to assist the LAF in ensuring that the area between the Blue Line and the Litani River is free of any armed personnel, assets or weapons other than those of the LAF and UNIFIL. [The Mission received no reports of unauthorized armed personnel in the area during the period under review, except for Palestinian armed elements, which are largely confined to the refugee camps. On a number of occasions, however, UNIFIL came across unauthorised arms, ammunition or related material in its area of operations south of the Litani River. On all such occasions UNIFIL informed the LAF, which took action to confiscate or to destroy the material. : UNIFIL please verify and provide specific dates] In January, the LAF and UNIFIL carried out a joint operation in the Kafr Shuba area with the aim of locating and clearing unauthorized arms, ammunition and mines. The LAF continue



to monitor and control entry points into the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line through permanent checkpoints and patrols.

12. During the current reporting period, the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force (MTF) hailed and confirmed the identity of over 2,000 ships, bringing the total number to over 3,000 since the MTF was established. It detected ten suspicious vessels, which were inspected by Lebanese naval or customs officials on arrival in port. No illegal arms were discovered. The MTF also assisted two vessels in distress, and participated in search and rescue operations that saved the lives of eighteen seamen. Effective procedures have been put in place between the MTF and the Lebanese Navy regarding access to Lebanese territorial waters, conduct of boarding and inspections, communications, and reporting procedures.

13. The LAF, which are estimated to number some 55,000 military personnel in total, have a significant number of essential tasks to carry out, according to resolution 1701 (2006), including to maintain peace and security in southern Lebanon in cooperation with UNIFIL, and to help secure the country's land and maritime borders. However, the country's ongoing political crisis has also required the LAF to deploy in Beirut, as well as other areas of the country, in order to ensure internal security. These additional tasks have put considerable strain on the LAF, whose entire army corps is currently deployed, and have sometimes limited its ability to carry out its tasks under resolution 1701 (2006).

14. The IDF continue to maintain a presence north of the Blue Line inside Lebanese territory, through its control

of the northern part of Ghajar village. UNIFIL has brokered an agreement with the IDF and the LAF regarding temporary security arrangements for northern Ghajar, which would facilitate IDF withdrawal from this area. While the arrangements had been approved by the Government of Israel, suggestions for amendments from the Government of Lebanon have resulted in a re-evaluation of the proposed arrangements by Israel.

15. UNIFIL's liaison and coordination mechanism with both the LAF and the IDF has been generally effective in addressing all military and security issues. The Force Commander holds regular tripartite meetings with senior representatives of both parties. As witnessed following the incident of 7 February, this forum has become instrumental in addressing critical security matters and is now a key element in Mission efforts to foster stability in southern Lebanon.

16. It has become clear in recent weeks that the LAF is facing considerable capacity problems, which have adversely impacted its ability to respond quickly to some of UNIFIL's requests, including executing operations to target weapons and infrastructure belonging to unauthorized armed personnel. UNIFIL has received a number of requests for equipment from the LAF, including, for example, night vision goggles, which the Mission is not currently able to provide. Both Government of Lebanon representatives and the United Nations have been approaching potential donors on this issue. I note that several interested partners have already made some contributions and I would urge others to come forward and assist the LAF carrying out their obligations under resolution 1701 (2006).



17. While acknowledging the LAF's problems of capacity, I have also noted that there have been some recent occasions when LAF units have shown a certain reluctance to respond to requests from UNIFIL, including when conducting some joint search operations. [In this connection, the LAF did not respond to a recent request from UNIFIL to conduct a joint search operation in the Wadi Saluki area. Subsequently, on 19 February, a UNIFIL patrol observed suspected Hizbollah personnel on guard duty in that area. : UNIFIL please verify the above] However, the LAF Commander has reassured UNIFIL's Force Commander that his forces are determined to work closely with UNIFIL, and, given the good cooperation that the Mission has received since 2006, I am confident that the LAF is committed to carrying out its obligations under resolution 1701 (2006).

18. While coordination and liaison between UNIFIL and the IDF has been generally good, the UNIFIL Force Commander was unable to establish direct contact with senior IDF representatives for much of the time during the Blue Line incidents in February 2007, contravening agreed arrangements. It is of critical importance that the IDF ensure that an officer, of appropriate rank and authority, can be contacted at all times by UNIFIL's Force Commander, so that any future incidents that may arise along the Blue Line could be quickly resolved before they are allowed to escalate.

#### **Disarming armed groups**

19. [As noted above, UNIFIL has received no reports of unauthorized armed personnel in its area of

responsibility, with the exception of some Palestinian armed elements attached to local refugee camps. : UNIFIL please verify the above and provide any specific information on Palestinian armed elements] Given the considerable military presence of the LAF and the United Nations force south of the Litani River, senior commanders of both forces believe it would be very difficult for unauthorized armed personnel to establish any new military capacity in that area.

20. However, there have been a number of reports, including from the Government of Israel, of activities conducted by non-LAF armed elements to the north of the Litani River, outside of UNIFIL's area of operations. In this connection, armed personnel, suspected of being members of Hizbollah, have been detected by UNIFIL just north of its area of operations constructing new facilities in the Bourrhaz region. At the same time, the seizure of a truck loaded with rockets and mortars by Lebanese security personnel on the edge of Beirut on 8 February, confirmed that illegal weapons are still being smuggled within the country. Hizbollah publicly demanded that the LAF hand back the weapons, which it described as "arms of the resistance."

21. The LAF Commander has, meanwhile, emphasized that his forces apply the same rules in adjacent areas north of the Litani River as for the area to its south, and that they would prevent any armed actions from being carried out by unauthorized armed elements in either region. However, in public pronouncements, Hizbollah has claimed it is building up its armed presence and capacity.

22. In this regard, I am concerned by the recent public statements made by the Hizbollah Secretary-General. In his remarks made on 16 February, Sayyed Nasrallah criticized the Lebanese authorities for seizing the truck-load of rockets and mortars, and claimed that his organization not only had plenty of weapons, but that it had the right to transport its arms to combat Israel, and that his fighters were present in southern Lebanon, close to the Blue Line. These statements openly admit to activities that are in direct violation of resolution 1701 (2006), which had been accepted by Hizbollah when it was adopted last year.

23. Meanwhile, UNIFIL has reported an increasing number of incidents where unarmed personnel, suspected of being members of Hizbollah, have been observed monitoring the Force's activities at various points throughout its area of operations, at times taking pictures and making videos. There have also been a number of recent incidents where municipal authorities in a small number of towns have attempted to limit the freedom of movement and activities of UNIFIL. However, in general, local authorities and residents have been well-disposed to the Mission, which itself understands the need to ensure its mandated tasks are carried out with sensitivity to the local population.

#### **Arms embargo**

24. [Paragraph on the border assessment mission to be added - need for increased bilateral assistance]

#### **Land mines and cluster bombs**



25. The extent of contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO), namely from cluster bomblets and sub-munitions, has become clearer since my last letter to the President of the Security Council. The UN Mine Action Coordination Centre, in conjunction with the Lebanese National Demining Office has identified an additional 32 individual cluster strike locations. As of 27 February 2007, a total of 854 cluster bomblet strike locations have been recorded. This contamination covers more than 34 million square metres, some of which had been cleared from mines and UXO prior to the 2006 conflict.

26. Each strike location contains hundreds of individual bomblets or sub-munitions. As of 22 February, the humanitarian impact of these explosive remnants of war on civilians had resulted in 22 deaths and 159 injuries. During the last two months, UNIFIL battalions experienced five accidents in which four BELUBATT and one CHINBATT explosive ordnance device team members were injured in a series of unfortunate demining and cluster bomb incidents.

27. While the numbers above remain alarming, there has been a decrease in the number of victims per day. This can be attributed to the joint effort of the LAF, UNIFIL, UN contracted and bilaterally funded clearance capacities. By 25 January 2007, approximately 10% of the contaminated area had been cleared, through the location and destruction of 103,010 unexploded cluster munitions. In addition to cluster munitions, unexploded bombs, rockets, mortars and other ordnance also litter the south and areas to the north and east of Lebanon.

28. Despite all United Nations efforts to receive detailed information from the IDF regarding the exact

location, quantity and type of cluster munitions utilized during the conflict, I regret that Israel has not yet provided UNIFIL with this data. While I acknowledge receipt of Israel's maps of mines laid until the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, I reiterate my request, as contained in my previous reports, for Israel to provide detailed data on its use of cluster munitions to the United Nations as soon as possible.

#### **Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**

29. In response to the Security Council's decision in resolution 1701 (2006) to supplement and enhance the numbers, equipment, mandate and scope of operations of UNIFIL, the Mission continued its phased deployment during the reporting period. With the second phase of deployment now complete, as of 20 February, the total number of military personnel has reached 12,431, from 29 contributing countries. A current total of 10,479 ground troops operate within two established sectors: Sector West, based in Tibnin; and Sector East, based in Marjayoun. The total UNIFIL naval personnel now numbers 1,772.

30. The Mission continues to recruit civilian staff. As of 8 February, staff strength totalled 473 (163 international and 310 national staff), out of an authorized strength of 1,078 staff (390 international and 688 national staff). The increased staff strength is reflected across all Mission civilian functions, particularly in the critical area of mission support.

31. The office of Political Affairs, which now comprises Civil Affairs, Public Information, and an office for

joint planning and coordination, has also been augmented during the period under review. Civil Affairs teams have been deployed in both UNIFIL's sectors - the Sector East team co-located with the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) cell in Marjayoun, while the Sector West team currently operates from UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura. Civil Affairs is working closely with the Mission's CIMIC cells and activities focus on relations with local communities and confidence-building efforts. The military Public Information cell is now fully integrated with the Public Information office, and the office for joint planning and coordination with the LAF, the Ministry of Defence and other relevant authorities, is now fully operational in Beirut. At the same time, a number of UNIFIL staff officers are also based with the IDF at Northern Command headquarters, and the Mission is seeking agreement with the Government of Israel to establish a small office in Tel Aviv.

### **III Observations**

32. The LAF have made significant and commendable strides toward fulfilling its obligations under resolution 1701 (2006), and I have been strongly encouraged by the cooperation and assistance provided by the LAF's top leadership. In this connection, recognizing that the armed forces face considerable problems of capacity and shortages of manpower and equipment, I call on the international community to provide relevant, timely and necessary bilateral assistance to the Government of Lebanon, to support the LAF working with UNIFIL to carry out its mandated tasks. I should note, in this regard, that the LAF is the peacekeeping partner of UNIFIL, and that language contained in resolution 1701



(2006) ties the success of UNIFIL to the capacities and capabilities of the LAF.

33. While the Government of Lebanon and its armed forces have provided crucial support to UNIFIL, and the Government of Israel and its armed forces have helped to facilitate UNIFIL's new mandated tasks, both parties can do more to ensure the successful implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). I urge both parties to commit themselves fully to furthering close liaison and coordination arrangements with UNIFIL, especially through full participation and information-sharing at tripartite meetings.

34. I call on the Government of Lebanon to redouble efforts to extend its authority over its territory through its own legitimate armed forces, and on the LAF to provide full and timely assistance to UNIFIL. In order to facilitate the swift withdrawal of remaining IDF personnel from Lebanese territory, I call on both parties to approve the temporary security arrangements for northern Ghajar. Most urgently, I call on the Government of Israel, once again, to review its policy of over-flights through Lebanese airspace, which are a continuing violation of resolution 1701 (2006), and to provide all information on cluster munitions fired in the 2006 conflict to the United Nations.

35. The incidents which occurred along the Blue Line in early February were regrettable and could have been avoided. In the atmosphere of fragile peace that exists today, both parties have a responsibility to avoid provocative actions likely to escalate tensions along the Blue Line. In the same manner, I am very concerned by the

reported activities of unauthorized armed elements outside of UNIFIL's area of operations, as well as by the statements made by Hizbollah Secretary-General, Sayyed Nasrallah. I recall that the successful implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) depends upon the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords, and of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006) that require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.

36. On 2 February 2007, Major-General Claudio Graziano (Italy) took over the command of UNIFIL from Major-General Alain Pellegrini (France). I would like to commend General Pellegrini for his significant contribution to UNIFIL, and especially for his exemplary performance during the hostilities of summer 2006 and his subsequent role in overseeing the recent augmentation of the Mission.

*[For possible inclusion within a section on the internal political situation within Lebanon :*

*The situation in the UNIFIL area of operations was tense during the nationwide street protests by the opposition on 23 January. All main roads throughout the UNIFIL area of operations, especially around and inside Tyre, were completely or partially blocked with burning tyres and debris. There were, however, no reports of clashes.]*