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TO: Mr. Vijay Nambiar
A: Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 25 June 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Horst Hertmann
DE: Director, Security Council Affairs Division
Department of Political Affairs

SUBJECT: **Security Council: Report on Activities**
OBJET:

Attached please find, for the attention of the Secretary-General, a note on the informal consultations of the Security Council on Monday, 25 June 2007.

cc: Mr. Pascoe

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OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Monday, 25 June 2007

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

The situation in the Middle East (UNIFIL)

The Council was briefed by Mr. Hédi Annabi, ASG for Peacekeeping Operations, who reported that on 24 June, a Spanish battalion patrol, consisting of two armoured personnel carriers, had been hit by a remotely-controlled car bomb which killed six and injured two others. Three Spaniards and three Colombians in the second of the two armoured carriers were killed. Mr. Annabi reported that a memorial ceremony would be held on 25 June in Marjayoun at which the Spanish Minister of Defence, the Ambassadors from Spain and Colombia and a representative of the Lebanese army would be present.

Mr. Annabi stated that no one had yet claimed responsibility for the blast, but that the Lebanese authorities, including President Lahoud, Prime Minister Siniora and Lebanese parliament speaker Berri had called to express their condolences and their continued support for UNIFIL. President Lahoud had said that an attack on UNIFIL was tantamount to an attack on Lebanon and threatened security and stability in the whole country. Hezbollah had also contacted UNIFIL to denounce the attack and both Hezbollah and the Amal Movement had said that the explosion represented an attack on the whole of Lebanon, but especially on the south.

The IDF had expressed its condolences and had offered to help treat the wounded. General Suleiman had said that the attack was similar to other terrorist attacks within Lebanon and was related to developments in the north of the country where the LAF had destroyed an Al-Qaeda cell in Tripoli on 23 June.

Mr. Annabi said that the UNIFIL investigation was ongoing and that the Government of Lebanon had appointed a Special Commission to investigate the attack.

France, echoed by Qatar, characterized the attack as "very serious", as it was obviously aimed at destabilizing Lebanon. Ambassador de La Sablière hoped that the Council would be kept closely informed of developments.

The United States asked whether the remotely-controlled device which was believed to have been used in the attack, was something which required someone to be present near the site in order to detonate the bomb at the precise moment. Ambassador Wolff also

wondered if there would be any change in the mission's operations following the attack. Qatar sought the Secretariat's views on the statement made by Hezbollah, in which it said it considered the attack "a suspicious act that hurts Lebanon and its inhabitants".

Italy and Qatar suggested that in addition to a reference to the Spanish contingent, the draft PRST should also mention those Colombian nationals who had been killed. The President clarified that they apparently did not belong to the Colombian army, but had been serving with UNIFIL as part of the Spanish contingent. He suggested that the phrase "including Colombian citizens" should be added to the end of the second paragraph. The United States suggested editorial changes to the first paragraph.

Mr. Annabi said that he would keep the Council informed of any developments in the investigation. Responding to questions from the United States, he said that it appeared that the attack had been carefully planned and that the remotely-controlled device had been planted in a parked car, which had been hidden by trees and other vegetation. Mr. Annabi added that UNIFIL routinely modified its patrol patterns, but he could not say whether the timing of this particular patrol could be regarded as predictable. UNIFIL had since changed its alert stage to 'black' and would be taking extraordinary precautions to ensure the safety of its personnel.

Mr. Annabi clarified that the Colombian nationals serving with the Spanish battalion were not members of the Colombian national army (and that the statement of the Secretary-General was incorrect in that regard). Responding to a question from Qatar, Mr. Annabi said that he did not know the amount of explosives detonated, but that it was clearly very powerful. With regard to the statement from Hezbollah denouncing the attack, Mr. Annabi thought it best to "let that speak for itself".

FORMAL MEETING

The situation in the Middle East (UNIFIL)

At its 5704th meeting, the Council agreed on the revised text of the draft PRST (S/PRST/2007/21) on the bomb attack on UNIFIL peacekeepers in Lebanon (see S/PV.5704).

Kiyotaka Kawabata/Lesley Brough
SCSB/SCAD/25 June 2007

Attachment.

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT rev 3

The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on 24 June near the town of Khiyam in South Lebanon, which targeted the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) in Lebanon and killed six United Nations Peacekeepers **of the Spanish contingent**.

The Security Council extends its deepest condolences to the families of those victims **which included Colombian nationals**.

The Security Council notes the condemnation of this attack by the Government of Lebanon and commends the determination and commitment of the Government of Lebanon to bring to justice the perpetrators of this attack.

The Security Council reaffirms its full support to the Lebanese Government and army in their efforts to ensure security and stability throughout Lebanon.

The Security Council appeals to all parties concerned to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of the UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel and by ensuring UNIFIL is accorded full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations.

The Security Council reaffirms its full support to the UNIFIL in carrying out its mandate to assist in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and expresses its strong appreciation to Member States contributing troops.