



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 February 2009

Dear General Graziano,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and to all UNIFIL military and civilian personnel for the warm hospitality my delegation and I received during my recent visit to the Mission. I am deeply grateful for the seamless organization of my programme, which allowed me to make the most of the limited time I had to visit UNIFIL's Headquarters and Area of Operations. I particularly welcomed the opportunity to personally review the situation on the ground and to exchange views with you and members of the Mission's leadership.

I am also very grateful for the arrangements put in place for me to gain further insights of the mission's activities and challenges both along the Blue Line when visiting the Italian Battalion at position 1-31, and inland during my visit to the Korean Battalion at position 2-5. In this regard, I would like to thank you for the excellent international lunch you hosted at ROKBATT, which allowed for direct interaction with contingent commanders as well as representatives of local and regional Lebanese authorities.

May my sincere gratitude and thanks also be conveyed in particular to Colonel Giulio Lucia for the excellent preparations in coordination with other UNIFIL colleagues, and his professional support to me and my team in ensuring a successful visit.

Major-General Claudio Graziano
Force Commander
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
Naqoura

Under your leadership, UNIFIL has accomplished major strides in implementing its mandate. I would like to commend you for your exemplary commitment, and to convey through you my appreciation for the dedicated service of all UNIFIL military and civilian personnel. In this context, it was an honour for me to award you with the UN medal on the occasion of my visit to the Mission. Let me finally extend to you and all UNIFIL colleagues my full support, together with my best wishes for every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

BAN Ki-moon