

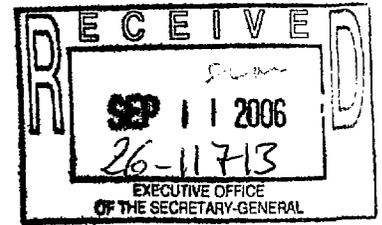
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Note to The Secretary General

Maritime Planning



1. Issue. You asked for a note to assist you in a telephone conversation with PM Siniora to address German concerns with regard to the UNIFIL Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and Rules of Engagement (ROE).
2. Background. PM Siniora's letter of 6[?] September requested the United Nations to "provide a naval task force that would help prevent the unauthorized entry of arms or related materiel by sea into Lebanon." The request would also be "in accordance with the decision of the Lebanese Council of Ministers on 4 September". The language of that decision is ambiguous. It seems to imply that a UNIFIL MTF would not operate in the inner 6 nautical miles (nm) of Lebanese territorial waters and would operate in the outer 6 nm only "as the Lebanese Army command elects". It further states that "inspection and towing will be under the supervision of the LAF". The letter does not appear to affect the current UN maritime ROE but it does raise questions over the integration of UN and Lebanese naval forces, their command and control arrangements, as well as the definition of the MTF area of maritime operations (AMO), shown in the attached diagram.
3. German Concern. It is likely that Germany will be asked to take command of the MTF and contribute significantly to it. As the Bundestag will base its endorsement of the deployment of troops on the current version of the CONOPS and ROE, Germany does not want the Government of Lebanon's request for maritime assistance to contradict the documents or reopen the debate on them. We have sought to ensure that the updated language in the CONOPS is as broad as possible to allow for several eventualities. However, we understand that Germany is seeking verbal assurances from the Lebanese that they will not reopen the debate on the CONOPS and ROE after the Bundestag decision. You may wish to note that we have invited representatives from Lebanon to attend the next TCC meeting for the MTF on Wednesday 13 September, where such issues can also be clarified.

J. G. G.

Jean-Marie Guehenno
Under Secretary General
for Peacekeeping Operations

11 September 2006

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