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SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS IN BEIRUT

69 Military Observers Expected by Sunday

(The following was received from a UN Information Officer with the UN Observation Group in Beirut, Lebanon.)

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold yesterday (Friday) continued consultations with the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon.

In the morning, he made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Sami es-Solh. Later in the day, he met with Andrew W. Cordier, his Executive Assistant, and with Major General Carl Carlsson von Horn, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, who arrived from Jerusalem.

At a press briefing yesterday afternoon by Colonel Maurice Brown, Chief Military Observer with the Observation Group, it was announced that by Sunday, 22 June, 69 military observers would have joined the staff of the Observation Group. They come from the following countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, India, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

The full complement of observers is expected within two weeks.

It was also announced at the briefing that observation field posts have already been established in the following areas: Tripoli, Chtaura, Marjayoun and Saïda.

Colonel Brown reported that the reception of the observers had been friendly and cooperative.

Mr. Galo Plaza, of Ecuador, one of the three members of the Observation Group, stressed that the operation of the Group was for observation purposes and not for police action. The objective was to stop infiltration by spotting it and exposing it to world opinion, thus applying moral force, he said.

Mr. Galo Plaza added that any large-scale expansion or change in nature of the operation would involve a return to the Security Council. However, the number of military observers was not necessarily limited to 100. He said that it was for the Observation Group alone to decide how many were needed.

The other members of the Observation Group are Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal (India) and Major General Odd Bull (Norway).

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