

**Middle East conflict -
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Press Release

First group of observers leave Lebanon

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FIRST GROUP OF OBSERVERS LEAVE LEBANON FOR HOME

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

Thirty observers of the UN Observation Group in Lebanon left Beirut for their homelands over the weekend. Among them were officers from Canada, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

Major General Odd Bull of Norway, UNOGIL's Chief of Staff, went to Khalda International Airport on Sunday to bid farewell to the officers. These 30 men were the first of 200 who are to leave Lebanon in the days ahead, completing the reduction in strength planned and approved a short time ago.

An over-all plan for the final withdrawal of the observers was agreed on last week by the UN Observation Group and the Lebanese Government and has been sent to the Secretary-General.

Ambassador Rajeshwar Dayal, member of the Group, is at present in Karachi, Pakistan, where he is High Commissioner for India, but is expected to return to Beirut shortly. Galo Plaza of Ecuador, Chairman of the Group, will remain in Lebanon until final arrangements for withdrawal have been made.

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