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Beirut, corresp. 1958 - June, July

Charles Malik (Min. for Foreign Affairs, Lebanon)

— to Sec. Gen. U.N.

13 June 1958

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 13 June 1958 concerning certain privileges, immunities and facilities for the Observation Group established by Security Council Resolution of 11 June 1958. I am pleased to advise you in the name of my Government that, having in mind the difficult nature of the functions of the Observation Group, the Government of Lebanon fully agrees with and hereby expresses its acceptance of the terms of your letter.

The Government of Lebanon also agrees that your letter and this reply should constitute an agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, effective from the date of the arrival of the first members of the Observation Group in Lebanon.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Charles Malik
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lebanon

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

Permanent Mission of Lebanon
to the United Nations.

July 28, 1958

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am grateful to you for your letter of July 25, 1958, in which you put two questions to the Government of Lebanon. I took up this matter with Beirut immediately and I am now in a position to transmit to you the attitude of the Government of Lebanon on these matters.

1. The Government of Lebanon is willing to conclude an agreement with the United Nations regarding United Nations military personnel stationed in Lebanon for UNOGIL purposes, similar to the one concluded early 1957 with Egypt on UNEF. The Government of Lebanon wants these United Nations military personnel to be, both in its view and in the view of the United States Government, adequate for the preservation of the independence and integrity of Lebanon.

2. The Government of Lebanon believes that these United Nations military personnel should be so armed as to be able militarily to prevent any illegal infiltration of men or smuggling of arms into Lebanese territory as well as any aggression on Lebanon of any kind, and towards these ends they would, in the performance of the tasks assigned to them, cooperate with the Lebanese armed forces.

3. Certainly the United Nations military personnel will have the rights of search and detention and the right to fire in self-defence. It is also expected that they would not be confined to the cities but would take up position at the frontiers of Lebanon to restore order and peace to those regions and to safeguard them against any aggression.

4. The Government of Lebanon is of the opinion that these United Nations military personnel should be contributed by such states as Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, and the like.

I wish to thank you for the genuine interest you have shown in our situation and to express to you my desire personally as well as the desire of the Government of Lebanon to cooperate with you most constructively in the fulfilment of your duties.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(s) Charles Malik.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York.