

**Middle East conflict -  
Lebanon. Correspondence,  
statements, resolutions:  
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*HS L 179:105a*



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Beirut, 1958 - Sept. 10

Sec. Gen. to — Repr. of Indonesia, Spain, Portugal, Afghanistan  
(UNOGIL) and Mexico

L 179: 1059

Letter sent to Indonesia, Spain, Portugal, Afghanistan, Mexico

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the resolution adopted by the Security Council at its 825th meeting on 11 June 1958 in connexion with the complaint by Lebanon. By that resolution the Security Council decided to despatch urgently an "observation group to proceed to Lebanon so as to ensure that there is no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other materiel across the Lebanese borders" and authorized the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to that end.

In implementation of this decision, the Secretary-General, on 14 June, announced the composition of an Observation Group consisting of three highly qualified and experienced men to be assisted by a limited number of military officers.

The Observation Group is at present assisted by some 200 officers serving as Military Observers. These officers have been assigned in response to the Secretary-General's request, by the following Governments: Argentina, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, India, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Sweden and Thailand.

The Observation Group is ready to expand its operations still further and now requests the assignment of an additional group of 62 officers to arrive in Beirut at the earliest possible date.

..... Toward meeting this new need of the Observation Group, the Secretary-General now approaches the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to place before his Government, as a matter of urgency, his request for the assignment of 15 officers of the Armed Forces of Portugal to join the Military Observation staff of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon. The qualifications of the officers to be selected are as outlined in the attached memorandum. It should be emphasized that officers of the rank of Lieutenant, Captain or Major only are acceptable; it would be desirable if they had several years' regular active military service in the field with command experience; they should be from 25 to 45 years of age and in good health; they should be fully qualified and experienced in driving jeeps. The officers selected should have a thorough knowledge of English, the working language of the mission. While serving with the United Nations, the officers would retain their active service status with their own Armed Forces.

..... The terms of service are set forth in the attached memorandum. The United Nations will pay the cost of transportation from Lisbon to Beirut and return, in accordance with established United Nations regulations. While in the area, the officers will receive a subsistence allowance subject to United Nations regulations and to such revision as circumstances may require from time to time. The allowance is presently set at the equivalent of \$10.00 (US) per day. While no formal leave entitlements have been established, arrangements for necessary leave are within the discretion of the Executive Member of the Observation Group in charge of Military Observers, Major-General Odd Bull. In the event of death or total disability owing to service with the United Nations, the United Nations undertakes the obligation of compensating the officer concerned, or his estate, in the amount of twice his annual salary or \$15,000, whichever is the greater. Compensation for partial disability is pro-rated in proportion to the disability.

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The assistance of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal in expediting this request on the Observation Group is greatly appreciated.

10 September 1958