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**Identical letters dated 28 June 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

I have the honour to forward a position paper from the Government of Lebanon in preparation for the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 28 June 2010 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Position of Lebanon in preparation for the comprehensive
assessment that will be presented by the Secretary-General in his
forthcoming report on the implementation of Security Council
resolution 1701 (2006)**

In preparation for the comprehensive periodic assessment that will be presented by the Secretary-General in his forthcoming report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), Lebanon would like to draw attention to the following:

1. Lebanon reiterates its commitment to implement all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) and calls on the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to fulfil its obligation to implement that resolution in full.
2. To emphasize its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), Lebanon dispatched a military delegation to brief the United Nations and Security Council members on Lebanon's position in respect of a number of outstanding issues that are relevant to the aforementioned resolution.
3. Since the last assessment, the Israeli enemy army has continued to violate Lebanese sovereignty in contravention of the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006). Those violations included the following:

(a) During the reporting period, the Israeli enemy army continued to violate Lebanese airspace, territory and territorial waters, committing 347 air violations, 23 sea violations and 75 land violations, in flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty and the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006), which calls for full respect for the Blue Line. Lebanon demands the immediate cessation of such violations and rejects any attempt to link them to Israeli allegations of arms smuggling. The nearly 6,945 air, sea and land violations of Lebanese sovereignty committed by Israel since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006) constitute a flagrant violation of the aforementioned resolution and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, the most important of which is Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978. Those actions threaten international peace and security and constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the Organization. Lebanon calls on the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to cease its daily violations of Lebanese sovereignty and honour United Nations resolutions.

(b) During the reporting period, senior Israeli officials, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Ehud Barak and Minister without Portfolio Yossi Peled, escalated the level of threats against Lebanon to the point that Israel, which controls the largest arsenal of conventional and nuclear weapons in the Middle East, even threatened to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure. Those threats are a flagrant violation of international law and norms and create a climate of tension

and instability. Israel's continuing occupation of Lebanese territory in flagrant violation of international law and Security Council resolutions, the most important of which are resolutions 425 (1978) and 1701 (2006), has negative repercussions on the Lebanese economy and weakens investor confidence in Lebanon. Israel's actions also violate the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Lebanon, a founding member of the Organization and the League of Arab States and a current member of the Security Council, calls on the international community to make every effort to halt Israel's repeated threats. Lebanon also calls on the international community to compel Israel to desist from making further threats against Lebanon and attempting to destabilize it, and to force Israel to implement fully international resolutions, and, in particular, resolutions 425 (1978) and 1701 (2006), by completely withdrawing from all the Lebanese territory it currently occupies.

(c) Lebanon would like to remind the international community that Israel continues to use every possible means to undermine resolution 1701 (2006). On 7 December 2009, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that resolution 1701 (2006) had collapsed.

(d) Lebanon again reminds the international community that the Israeli enemy army violated Lebanese sovereignty when it planted an underground sensor system in the area between the towns of Hula and Mays al-Jabal inside Lebanese territory. On 17 and 18 October 2009, after that sensor system had been discovered, the Israeli enemy army detonated it via remote control without regard for any loss of life that might have occurred. The eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), paragraph 14, affirms that that incident constituted a violation of resolution 1701 (2006). The report also affirms that the presence of explosive devices placed on Lebanese territory by the Israeli enemy army constituted a violation of resolution 1701 (2006). It also indicates that, during those events on 17 and 18 October, Israeli unmanned aerial vehicles were observed flying over the incident area for a prolonged period of time. The report further indicates that overflights by unmanned aerial vehicles over the area of the incident not only constituted an air violation but also interfered with United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) operational activities and freedom of movement.

(e) Lebanese security forces uncovered a number of spying networks that were under the direct control of Israeli intelligence agencies. Lebanon considers those networks to be a flagrant violation of resolution 1701 (2006). Twelve such networks were discovered in Lebanese territory, both within and outside the UNIFIL area of operations, and 46 persons belonging to those networks were arrested.

(f) On Sunday, 31 January 2010, Israeli enemy forces penetrated deep into Lebanese territory and abducted the Lebanese citizen Rabi' Muhammad Zuhrah near Mazra'at Bastarah, on the outskirts of the Lebanese town of Kafr Shuba. They took him to one of their military posts in the occupied Shab'a Farms, where they interrogated, tortured and beat him severely, leaving him with scars and large wounds on his face and neck. Such actions are a flagrant violation of international laws in force and international humanitarian law. They released him on Monday, 1 February 2010. The abduction of Lebanese citizens from inside Lebanese territory is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and of resolution 1701 (2006), and a grave threat to international peace and security.

(g) At dawn on Saturday, 10 April 2010, an Israeli enemy army patrol crossed the Blue Line near the Wazzani River, entering Lebanese territory and heading in the direction of the Wazzani Fort tourist resort, which is under construction near the river. The unit encroached on the construction site and stole spare parts for a bulldozer before withdrawing from Lebanese territory. That action constituted a blatant violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and a grave threat to international peace and security.

(h) On the night of Saturday, 17 April 2010, at 9.30 p.m., an Israeli enemy motorized brigade assembled near the Blue Line, in the vicinity of the Lebanese town of Udaysah, and fired a flare shell over a civilian residence where a dinner party in honour of a local parliamentarian was being held. The shell exploded in the sky, terrorizing the town's Lebanese citizens. That Israeli aggression was a fundamental and blatant violation of resolution 1701 (2006) that raised tensions on both sides of the border and constituted a threat to international peace and security.

(i) Israeli enemy soldiers entered Lebanese territory on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba, near the Hassan Gate. This action was observed by Lebanese Army troops, who used loudspeakers to warn them that they must withdraw from Lebanese territory. However, the Israeli soldiers did not heed that warning, leading to an exchange of fire. While no one was injured, the Israeli soldiers were forced to withdraw towards their position at Ruwaysat al-Alam, inside the occupied Shab'a Farms. The entrance of Israeli soldiers into Lebanon was a flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty, international law and resolution 1701 (2006), and a threat to international peace and security.

(j) UNIFIL continues to make every effort to ensure the full withdrawal of Israel from the area known as B14, namely, the northern part of Ghajar and the uninhabited area adjacent to it, and the Lebanese Government continues to cooperate with the Force towards that objective. Despite those efforts, the Israeli army continues to occupy the area in contravention of its obligation under resolution 1701 (2006) to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Ghajar. Israel's delay in withdrawing from area B14 raises doubts as to its commitment to implementing resolution 1701 (2006) and whether the Security Council is capable of compelling Israel to end its occupation. The international community must strive to ensure that Israel withdraws from the Lebanese part of Ghajar and all of area B14 as soon as possible. While the Israeli Government is attempting to delay withdrawal, it should be recalled that Israel's withdrawal is not a concession but a requirement of resolution 1701 (2006).

(k) Lebanon considers the continued Israeli occupation of the Shab'a Farms and the Lebanese Kafr Shuba hills to constitute a threat to stability and security along the entire border. Lebanon demands that the international community bring pressure to bear on Israel to withdraw fully and unconditionally from Lebanese territory, and calls on the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to bring about Israel's withdrawal. Lebanon reminds the international community that Israel must withdraw from the Shab'a Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006). The mandate of UNIFIL should be expanded to include the Shab'a Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills in preparation for their return to the Lebanese State.

(l) Lebanon again reminds the international community that the maps provided by Israel indicating the locations on which cluster bombs were dropped are

incomplete and inaccurate. Israel indiscriminately dropped such bombs on populated civilian areas, killing or injuring over 357 persons, including 34 children and 70 youths. The Government of Lebanon reiterates that it has questioned the accuracy of the maps that Israel previously provided, inasmuch as 37 locations known to be contaminated by cluster bombs were not marked. Lebanon demands to know the dates on which Israel dropped cluster bombs, and the numbers and types of cluster bombs used. It also reiterates that the Lebanese Army has asked to be supplied with aerial photographs or video recordings of targeted sites, before and after the bombing. Israel bears criminal responsibility for the deaths of numerous Lebanese civilians killed by cluster bombs it dropped during its attack on Lebanon, for accidents caused by its unexploded ordnance, and for numerous other crimes committed against Lebanon and its citizens. It should therefore pay due compensation for those criminal acts. Lebanon urges the United Nations and donor countries to follow up this issue in order to protect the lives of innocent civilians. In that connection, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre must be provided with the resources it requires to carry out its mission.

(m) The Israeli army has continued to conduct illegal naval patrols inside Lebanese territorial waters, along the so-called line of buoys that it had illegally and unilaterally installed inside Lebanese territorial waters. Israel falsely claims that the line of buoys approximates the southern limit of Lebanese territorial waters. The Israeli army continues to fire warning shots and lob hand grenades at Lebanese fishing boats; it also regularly drops explosive charges along the aforementioned line of buoys and inside Lebanese territorial waters. In paragraph 29 of his twelfth report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2009/218), the Secretary-General warns that Israel's actions could increase tension between the parties. Lebanon does not recognize any line that was installed unilaterally and considers that action to be another violation of Lebanese sovereignty and resolution 1701 (2006). Lebanon further requests the United Nations to charge UNIFIL with installing a line of buoys that conforms to international standards.

4. The Lebanese Army continues to strengthen strategic and tactical cooperation with UNIFIL.

(a) Joint patrols, checkpoints, training exercises and drills are specific examples of the ongoing coordination between the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL.

(b) Lebanon stresses that not one of the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) has referred to any evidence of arms smuggling into the UNIFIL area of operations. Moreover, all the weapons that have been found are remnants of Israel's war against Lebanon in the summer of 2006. Lebanon further stresses that it has not been informed of any incidents of smuggling since the Secretary-General presented his most recent report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) to the Security Council.

(c) Israel's allegations about arms stockpiling and the establishment of military installations in populated civilian areas in southern Lebanon are baseless. Their purpose is to facilitate and justify the targeting, killing and terrorization by Israel of innocent Lebanese civilians, albeit the targeting of civilians is prohibited and criminalized by relevant international instruments and international humanitarian law.

(d) With a view to maintaining calm along the Blue Line, Lebanon will continue to participate in tripartite meetings. Such meetings are the appropriate forum in which to address outstanding issues in respect of the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the easing of tensions along the Blue Line. Continued unilateral action by Israel undermines the tripartite meetings and the ability of UNIFIL to maintain calm in its area of operations. Moreover, those unilateral actions are meant to raise doubts about the ability of the Lebanese armed forces to defend the whole of Lebanon, contrary to the spirit of resolution 1701 (2006).

(e) With regard to setting up markers along the Blue Line, Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to the agreement concluded at the tripartite meetings to move ahead with and accelerate that operation. Israel's procrastination in that regard raises suspicions that it might have ulterior motives.

5. Lebanon stresses the importance of increasing international assistance aimed at building the capacity of the Lebanese Army and security forces to defend Lebanese sovereignty and protect the Lebanese people. The Lebanese Army needs additional supplies of arms and ammunition, access to modern surveillance and communications equipment, and training in the use of such equipment.

6. Despite the limited capacities and resources of the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Government decided to deploy two additional battalions south of the Litani River. That deployment further demonstrates the Government's commitment to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and its desire to assert its control over all Lebanese territory.

7. Border surveillance is one of the Lebanese Government's priorities. Lebanon's commitment to the surveillance and control of its borders is demonstrated by the Prime Minister's appointment of a Government minister to develop a comprehensive and integrated border strategy. That strategy will be presented to the Ministerial Border Committee, which will in turn submit it to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

8. The situation at the border requires close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Republic with a view to reactivating the joint border committee, which will begin delineating the borders.

9. At the economic level, we would like to reiterate the call made in resolution 1701 (2006) for the international community to consider further assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In that connection, we call on the States that took part in the Stockholm Conference, the Paris III Conference and the Vienna Conference to fulfil their pledges. Lebanon greatly appreciates the economic and social programmes and humanitarian assistance, including quick-impact projects and emergency medical services, provided by UNIFIL to Lebanese citizens in its area of operations.

10. In order to strengthen stability and security, we must move from the current state of cessation of hostilities to a permanent ceasefire.