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Letter dated 21 August 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) of 11 August 2006, in particular paragraph 1, in which the Council called for a full cessation of hostilities. I wish to bring to your attention the letters that I sent on 12 August 2006 to the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert (see annex I), and the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora (see annex II). In an annex to those letters, I set out our expectations of how all concerned should fulfil their obligations with respect to the cessation of hostilities.

It is my intention to inform the Security Council on a daily basis of compliance by the parties concerned with the cessation of hostilities.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex I

Letter dated 12 August 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Prime Minister of Israel

I refer to our telephone conversation in connection with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), adopted unanimously on 11 August 2006. As agreed by you and by the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the cessation of hostilities, referred to in paragraph 1 of the resolution, will come into effect on 14 August 2006 at 0500 GMT. I will inform the Council of this decision.

The annex to this letter^a sets out our expectations of how all concerned will fulfil their obligations with respect to the cessation of hostilities. To facilitate this, it will be essential that the Israel Defense Forces designate a General Officer who will be accessible at all times to the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, Major General Alain Pellegrini. The General Officer should be authorized to meet with the Force Commander within 72 hours of the cessation of hostilities to discuss arrangements and timelines for the implementation of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The Israeli-Lebanese General Armistice Agreement of 1949, cited in paragraph 5 of resolution 1701 (2006), envisages arrangements in this spirit.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

^a See appendix.

Annex II

Letter dated 12 August 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the Prime Minister of Lebanon

I refer to our telephone conversation in connection with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), adopted unanimously on 11 August 2006. As agreed by you and by the Prime Minister of Israel, the cessation of hostilities, referred to in paragraph 1 of the resolution, will come into effect on 14 August 2006 at 0500 GMT. I will inform the Council of this decision.

The annex to this letter^a sets out our expectations of how all concerned will fulfil their obligations with respect to the cessation of hostilities. To facilitate this, it will be essential that the Lebanese Armed Forces designate a General Officer who will be accessible at all times to the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, Major General Alain Pellegrini. In addition, the General Officer should be authorized to meet with the Force Commander within 72 hours of the cessation of hostilities to discuss arrangements and timelines for the implementation of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The Israeli-Lebanese General Armistice Agreement of 1949, cited in paragraph 5 of resolution 1701 (2006), envisages arrangements in this spirit.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

^a See appendix.

Appendix

Cessation of hostilities

• Cessation of hostilities will be understood as follows:

- No firing into the territory of or at the other side by any type of weapon from the ground, air or sea.
- No force occupies or seeks to occupy any additional territory from the other side.
- So as to enable the United Nations to monitor compliance with the cessation of hostilities, each side:
 - Immediately informs the United Nations of the disposition of its forces and the territory held by them within the area in question as at the date and time of the cessation of hostilities coming into effect.
 - Immediately informs the United Nations of its information or assessment of the other sides' disposition of forces and territory held by them within the area in question as at the date and time of the cessation of hostilities coming into effect.
 - Refrains from any changes in the strength, composition or disposition of its forces in the area in question once the cessation of hostilities has come into effect, unless it notifies the United Nations in advance, and the United Nations in turn is able to inform the other side.
 - Immediately notifies the United Nations if it has been fired upon, in as precise detail as possible, refraining from responding except where clearly required in immediate self-defence; the United Nations undertakes to bring, in an impartial manner, such incidents to the attention of the Security Council as quickly as possible.
 - Designates a General Officer who is guaranteed to be immediately available to the United Nations Force Commander at all times, through a variety of means of communications hotlines, in order to exchange information on compliance with the cessation of hostilities, as well as on measures required for the United Nations force to carry out its mandated activities; equivalent communications hotlines are established between the United Nations and the relevant sides at battalion and other levels, as appropriate.
 - Designates a General Officer who is authorized to jointly discuss with the United Nations Force Commander and a senior representative of the other sides' armed forces timelines and modalities for implementing provisions related to any withdrawal or forward deployment of their respective armed forces within the area in question, including certification that there are no unexploded ordnance, mines or booby-traps in the area from which they have withdrawn.
- All sides ensure full cooperation and the security and safety and freedom of movement of the United Nations force to monitor compliance with the cessation of hostilities.