

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIFIL OPERATION, OUR POSITION HAS BEEN CLEAR AND CONSISTENT. INITIALLY WE DEPLOYED 35 OF OUR FORCES ALREADY IN THE AREA TO FACILITATE THE ARRIVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORCE. WE SAID THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY A REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL PROVIDED WE HAD THE CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE ROLE REQUESTED AND WERE SATISFIED THAT THE CONDITIONS WERE SUCH THAT OUR PERFORMANCE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

WE DO HAVE THE CAPACITY, ALBEIT LIMITED, AND WHILE THERE ARE RISKS, AS THERE ALWAYS WILL BE IN EXERCISES OF THIS KIND, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE MANDATE AND OPERATIONS OF THE FORCE ARE SUCH THAT WE ARE NEEDED. IN FACT, AS I WAS TOLD YESTERDAY IN NEW YORK, THE SIGNALLERS ARE "THE LIFELINE" OF THE FORCE.

CANADA SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH ESTABLISHED UNIFIL. THE FORCE CONSISTS OF CONTINGENTS FROM FRANCE AND NORWAY, WITH TEMPORARY SUPPORT FROM IRAN, SWEDEN AND CANADA. I WAS INFORMED YESTERDAY THAT FURTHER CONTINGENTS FROM SENEGAL, NEPAL AND NIGERIA ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SOON. WE HAVE AGREED TO SEND APPROXIMATELY 80 SIGNALLERS TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. RECOGNIZING THE EXTENT OF OUR EXISTING LOGISTICS OPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ASKED US TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE ONLY UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1978. WE HAVE AGREED TO DO SO.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT ALL PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL ADHERE TO THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL