

the Arab-Israeli raised objections with the still-
-ity Committee Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice
-ion on Commission, established by UNTSO in
-val; at 1948, arguing that Palestinian guerillas
-raised could not be allowed into the area, that
-n of a green frontier should be kept open to allow
-ns in contact between Israel and the Mar-
-Secretary-controlled areas and that Maronite
-for a ranciers should not be punished for their
-responsibility of the Lebanese Government and
-April UNIFIL. Nevertheless, a Lebanese Gov-
-ernment battalion, apparently under Syr-
-Elementary escort, moved towards a Maronite
-Lebanese position in a village policed by UN troops.
-area. The Maronites, however, held firm. Fears
-was clearly expressed that the Syrians would
-ere out an entry into the area, and the Syrian
-the escort was withdrawn. On this occasion,
-the return UN acted as intermediary between
-Lebanese Lebanese and the Maronites. How-
-resolves, fighting broke out between them and
-not until mid-August the Lebanese battalion
-long abandoned its efforts to enter the area.
-but reminiscent of August 1960, when the
-Major Samuamba Government of the Congo tried
-force, with follow ONUC (the United Nations
-and operation in the Congo) into secessionist
-for a Katanga but was thwarted by the UN
-half of forces, the Lebanese Government gave
-follow consideration to the redefinition of the
-to be United Nations role to permit the use of
-over force if necessary to dislodge the Maronite
-Christian militia and allow the entry of Government
-and of forces. But no action of this kind was taken.
-to accept. There was also the human problem
-y. This with which UNIFIL had to deal, since
-permit relative stability had been achieved in the
-and, south after the total withdrawal of Israeli
-hundreds of forces. Many of the 250,000 Lebanese,
-including about 65,000 Palestinians, who
-UNIFIL fled the battle-zone upon the Israeli inva-
-sion, began streaming back into a zone
-where towns were smashed or obliterated
-by war, where food was difficult to obtain
-and normal services disrupted or entirely
-unavailable. UNIFIL was called upon to
-regulate the flow, filter out dissident ele-
-ments, curtail internecine struggles and,
-with the help of a special humanitarian
-fund established earlier by the Secretary-
-General, do all it could to help provide
-the basic human needs for a population
-ravaged by war.

Renewal

At the time of writing, the original man-
-date has been renewed for a further four
-months. However, determined efforts by

Lebanese forces to enter southern Lebanon
have been forcibly repulsed, UNIFIL has
yet to fulfil the second half of its mandate,
the establishment of its full control over
the area of operations and the return of
Lebanese forces. But, with the political
turmoil and frequent hostilities raging in
the north and with powerful Syrian forces
entrenched on Lebanese soil, UNIFIL
also serves as a buffer and as a deterrent
to any attempt by the PLO or Syria to
disrupt progress of the Camp David frame-
work for peace by moving hostile forces
close to the Israeli border. This is a silent
aspect of the mandate, not to be found in
Security Council resolutions.

There can also be no doubt that
UNIFIL, in the implementation of Resolu-
tion 425, functions at a high level of con-
tinuous and critical political involvement.
Its role is broader than the forms of inter-
position of UNEF and UNDOF, and well
beyond the limited observation of
UNOGIL. It can be likened to the com-
plexity of ONUC, but without the atten-
dant political confusion and financial
burden that threatened to wreck the UN.
On the contrary, UNIFIL adds to the com-
petence and prestige of the organization.

It may be argued that, in the present
era of search for *détente*, UN peacekeeping
is less subject to the hostile criticism and
partisanship that characterized the period
of the Cold War. Soviet restraint and
French participation are testimony to this
view. The successes of UNEF, UNDOF
and UNOGIL also provide the legitimacy
to the conception of UN peacekeeping
that may carry it to the next stage of
agreement in the Special Committee on
Peacekeeping Operations on the stan-
dards, planning, control and infrastructure
of peacekeeping for future operations.

As for UNIFIL, it will be some time
before its full effects can be assessed. It
will certainly face serious tests in the
foreseeable future. And, unless the Camp
David framework for peace is expanded to
include all Israel's neighbours, the need
for its existence will continue. But peace-
keeping is a vital part of the long and
precarious path to peace. There should be
no doubt that, in this case, peacekeeping
and peacemaking are inextricably com-
bined. Any echoes of past voices that
criticize peacekeeping for failures in the
process of peacemaking have no relevance
to the contemporary situation.

*High level
of political
involvement
for UNIFIL*