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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Lebanese Government has decided to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is due to expire on 19 July 1986, for a further period of six months, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), as well as of other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

I wish to stress that the Lebanese Government is convinced, despite the current situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the continued presence of the Israeli occupation forces, that UNIFIL, which symbolizes the will of the international community, continues to be an essential factor for stability and the best available option for ensuring peace and security in the region, precisely at this time when further sustained efforts are still vitally needed to enable UNIFIL completely to discharge the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council since 1978.

The Lebanese Government would like to express its gratitude on this occasion to the Secretary-General and his colleagues, and to pay tribute to UNIFIL and to the troop-contributing countries for the efforts and sacrifices which they are making in order to serve the cause of peace in Lebanon and in the region.

I should be grateful if you would kindly bring the text of this letter to the attention of members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Rachid FAKHOURY  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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