UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

Naqoura, 22 August 2006

PRESS RELEASE

The process of Lebanese Army deployment inside the territory vacated by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) continues, in accordance with Resolution 1701. It is conducted in close coordination and with the support of UNIFIL.

The Israeli Army withdrawal and the deployment of the Lebanese Army continue in accordance with the plan and timeline agreed during a third trilateral meeting of the Force Commander UNIFIL and the senior representatives of the Lebanese and Israeli Army, which took place on 20 August 2006 in Ras Nagoura.

Yesterday, Lebanese army deployed to areas taken over by UNIFIL from the IDF the day earlier, in general areas of east-south and east-west of Bayt Yahoun and south along the road to Kunin. As of yesterday the Lebanese army forward positions in South Lebanon go along the line of Buyit As Sayyid, Majda Zun, Zibqin, Yatar, Rshaf, At Tiri, Kunin, Mhaibeb, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Gandouriyah, and Frun.

The cessation of hostilities generally was maintained in the past 24 hours. There was however, two air violations by Israeli jets recorded yesterday. There was also a clash reported between IDF and Hezbollah members east of Shamaha. Details are still to be established.

A team of Mine Action Coordination Center carried out controlled demolition of 445 unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the areas of Yohmor, Smayieh, Ras Al Ain, Tibnin and Aita Al Jabal.

UNIFIL continued intensive ground and air patrolling throughout its area of operation to assess the situation on the ground and to monitor the cessation of hostilities.

UNIFIL distributed 45, 000 liters of drinking water to villages of El Khiam, Kafer Kela and Ebel Es Saqi.

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