

NOTE

This is a preliminary narrative and should not be regarded as authoritative. It has not been checked for accuracy in all aspects, and its interpretations are not necessarily those of the Historical Section as a whole.

Ce texte est préliminaire et n'a aucun caractère officiel. On n'a pas vérifié son exactitude et les interprétations qu'il contient ne sont pas nécessairement celles du Service historique.

Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K2

July 1986

46173

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

AUTHORITY: DHD 3-12

SECRET

BY AS FOR DHIST NDHQ

DATE: JUN - 15 1989

REPORT NO. 9

DIRECTORATE OF HISTORY
CANADIAN FORCES HEADQUARTERS

27 Jul 66

Canada and Peace-keeping Operations
The Lebanon 1958

	PAGE	PARA
1. Introduction	1	1
2. The Dilemma of the Lebanon	1	4
3. Lebanese Appeal to the Security Council	5	17
4. Authorization for the Formation of an Observation Group	5	20
5. Organization of UNCGIL	6	21
6. Initial Canadian Contribution to UNCGIL	6	24
7. Canadian Contingent to Lebanon	7	25
8. Internal Developments in Lebanese Crisis	8	28
9. First Report from UNCGIL	9	31
10. Anglo-American Troop Landings in Lebanon and Jordan	9	33
11. Action in the Security Council	10	35
12. The Second Increase in Canadian Contribution to UNCGIL	11	38
13. The Election of a new Lebanese President	11	39
14. International Developments	12	41
15. The General Assembly in Session	13	44
16. Further Increase in Canadian Contribution to UNCGIL	13	48
17. Change of Regime in Lebanon	15	52
18. U.S. Marines and Army Withdrawn from Lebanon	16	55
19. UNCGIL Disbanded	17	57
20. Conclusions	18	59

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

(ii)

	PAGE
APPENDIX "A" Letter from the permanent representative of the Lebanon, Mr. Azkoul, to the President of the Security Council, 22 May 1958.	19
APPENDIX "B" Resolution adopted by the Security Council regarding the Lebanon, 11 June 1958.	20
APPENDIX "C" First Report of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold, on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution of 11 June 1958, 16 June 1958.	21
APPENDIX "D" Statement by President Eisenhower announcing the dispatch of United States Forces to the Lebanon, 15 July 1958.	27
APPENDIX "E" Draft Resolution submitted to the Security Council by Japan, 22 July 1958.	29
APPENDIX "F" Resolution of the General Assembly regarding the situation in the Lebanon and Jordan, 21 August 1958.	30
APPENDIX "G" Organization of UNOGIL.	32
APPENDIX "H" Organization of Military Staff of UNOGIL.	33
APPENDIX "I" Requirements and Conditions for Observers with the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon.	34
APPENDIX "J" Map of Lebanon showing UNOGIL Stations (Annex to Fifth Report from UNOGIL).	36
Reference Notes	37

SECRET

REPORT NO. 9

DIRECTORATE OF HISTORY

CANADIAN FORCES HEADQUARTERS

27 Jul 66

Canada and Peace-keeping Operations
The Lebanon 1958

1. This Report is concerned with Canadian participation in the United Nations Observation Group in the Lebanon (UNOGIL) between June and December 1958. Included are details of the authorization, formation, equipment and employment of the force during the whole period of an operation which the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden, described as "the most delicate and hazardous yet undertaken" by that organization.

2. To keep UNOGIL in its proper perspective it has been necessary to include an outline of the political situation in the Lebanon as it has evolved over the years and the international background to the crisis of 1958. The operation itself is of particular interest because it represents a United Nations' reaction to alleged "indirect aggression" and also because of the role played by the Secretary-General in exercising executive authority on behalf of the U.N. Canada's participation, with which the major part of the Report is concerned, included the dispatch of officer observers and stores personnel to Lebanon and the exercise of initiative at United Nations' headquarters in New York.

3. The principal classified sources used for the Report include files of the Department of External Affairs on the Lebanese political situation; Central Registry files which deal with the organization and dispatch of the Canadian group in UNOGIL, and Minutes of the Army Council. The main open sources are: House of Commons Debates; Documents on International Affairs 1958, published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs; Ruth B. Russell's United Nations Experience with Military Forces; D.W. Bowett's United Nations Forces; and the series of Reports submitted to the United Nations by the Observation Group in the Lebanon.

The Dilemma of the Lebanon

4. In May 1958 political unrest in the Middle East had reached the point where it threatened to involve the major powers. Canada and other "Middle Powers" were once again called upon to exercise their ingenuity, within the framework of the United Nations and on the spot, to extricate the various participants from a dangerous impasse.

5. The breakdown of law and order in the Lebanon, a small country on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean, had

its seeds in the peculiarities of geography, the social system and in certain events of the area's recent history. "The Mountain", as the Arabs call the Lebanon, is approximately 135 miles long and 25-50 miles wide, with a land area of 4015 square miles divided into four parallel sections, running from south-west to north-east. These are the narrow coastal strip, which is broken at many points by rugged slopes; the Mount Lebanon range; a flat-bottomed valley known as the Bekaa; and adjacent to Syria, the Anti-Lebanon-Harmon mountains. Ethnologically and linguistically, Lebanon is only a continuation of its larger neighbour, Syria. Residents along the eastern and northern borders frequently have close family and tribal ties with their Syrian counterparts. Until the mid-nineteenth century when the Turks took over direct control, the rulers of the large Christian and Druse populations in the mountains managed to retain a certain measure of autonomy for Lebanon within the Turkish Empire. After the First World War, the League of Nations gave France a mandate over the area, including Syria. In 1945 Lebanon achieved separate statehood. (1)

6. The first few years of independence, during which a "middle-of-the-road" foreign policy was followed, were mainly uneventful. Lebanon joined the League of Arab States in 1945 and participated on a small scale in the 1948-49 Arab War against Israel with whom she now shares her southern border. In 1952 the President, Bechara-el-Khoury, had to resign during the third year of his second six-year term. Camille Chamoun was elected in his stead.

7. By 1956 the population of Lebanon was about one and a half millions, of whom a third lived in or near the capital and seaport of Beirut. The country was divided along confessional lines into 11 Christian sects (9 of whom the Maronites (Eastern Uniates) were the most numerous) the Druses, two Moslem sects and those of the Jewish faith. Each group tended to be inward-looking and suspicious of others, this being as true of the relationship between Christian sects as of that between Christians and Moslems. Since membership in a religious community was the basis of all political and social obligations and rights, seats in the single Chamber of Deputies and governmental posts were apportioned according to the relative strength of each religion.(2) Thus the President was always a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni Moslem and the Foreign Minister a member of the Greek Orthodox communion. By the Constitution the president was permitted only one six-year term unless an amendment was passed by two-thirds of the Chamber of Deputies.(3) This safeguard was of particular importance since the system of government permitted the president to exercise considerable power and influence.

8. The basis for the distribution of power was the census of 1932, which gave the Christian element a six percent overall majority. Over the years, emigration of Christian Lebanese, a higher Moslem birthrate and the arrival of refugees from Palestine after the Israeli war altered the proportions, until by 1958 the Moslems considered

