

LEBANON - UNSC 564UNITED
NATIONS

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**Security Council**Distr.
GENERALS/RES/564 (1985)
31 May 1985

RESOLUTION 564 (1985)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 2582nd meeting,
on 31 May 1985

The Security Council,

Recalling the statement made by its President on 24 May 1985 (S/17215) on behalf of its members on the heightened violence in certain parts of Lebanon,

Alarmed at the continued escalation of violence involving the civilian population, including Palestinians in refugee camps, resulting in grievous casualties, and material destruction on all sides,

1. Expresses anew its deepest concern at the heavy costs in human lives and material destruction affecting the civilian population in Lebanon, and calls on all concerned to end acts of violence against the civilian population in Lebanon and in particular in and around Palestinian refugee camps;
2. Reiterates its calls for respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon;
3. Calls on all parties to take necessary measures to alleviate the suffering resulting from acts of violence, in particular by facilitating the work of United Nations agencies, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and non-governmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, in providing humanitarian assistance to all those affected and emphasizes the need to ensure the safety of all the personnel of these organizations;
4. Appeals to all interested parties to co-operate with the Lebanese Government and the Secretary-General with a view to ensuring the implementation of this resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council;
5. Reaffirms its intention to continue to follow closely the situation.



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/17730/Rev.2
17 January 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Lebanon: revised draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming Security Council resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 501 (1982), 508 (1982), 509 (1982), 512 (1982) and 520 (1982), as well as all its resolutions on the situation in Lebanon,

Having heard the statement of the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, and noting with great concern the deterioration of the situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the Israeli acts of violence and abusive practices and measures,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and stressing the humanitarian principles of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949,

1. Strongly deplors the Israeli acts of violence as well as abusive practices and measures against the civilian population in southern Lebanon, which are in violation of the rules and principles of international law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949;
2. Reaffirms the urgent need to implement the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, and in particular resolutions 425 (1978), 508 (1982), and 509 (1982), which demand that Israel withdraw all its military forces forthwith and unconditionally to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon;
3. Reiterates its call for strict respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries;
4. Demands that Israel desist forthwith from its practices and measures against the civilian population in southern Lebanon, which impede the restoration of normal conditions in the area and threaten the reconciliation efforts towards restoring peace and security in the whole country;
5. Decides to keep the situation under review and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council as appropriate.

(The President)

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to make statements before the vote.

Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): As this is the first time that I have spoken in the Council this month, let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of this body. Relations between your country, China, and my country are continuing to develop very favourably and my delegation is delighted to see you presiding over the Council. We are completely confident that you will preside over our deliberations with your acknowledged skill and wisdom.

I should also like to express my delegation's appreciation of the objectivity and skill of your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso.

Let me also express my personal regard for my colleagues who recently left the Council: the representatives of Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Peru, and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

May I also welcome the representatives of Bulgaria, the Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela, who this month joined this body. I am sure that they will contribute to our work and our efforts to make the Council as effective as possible in the pursuit of the very important role assigned to it under the Charter.

The situation in Lebanon is once again before the Security Council, and this is a matter of particular concern to Australia. Large numbers of people of Lebanese descent have embarked upon a new life in Australia; they retain an interest in Lebanon and close bonds of affection with their former homeland. For those reasons, as well as for reasons of our wider concern with the need to maintain peace, Australia has followed with sympathy and concern the complex and tragic chapters in Lebanon's more recent history.

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

I might add that I do not think it prudent or appropriate to seek to dismiss the deliberations of the Council as "ridiculous", as has been done. The situation in the Middle East as a whole and in Lebanon in particular is far too grave to be treated polemically or with sarcasm. In this body we should avoid polemics from all quarters, as I said when we considered this matter, I think, last March. What we in the Council should be doing is approach the situation in a constructive, responsible way; and, of course, that can be done only with the co-operation of the principal participants.

As my delegation has made clear in former statements, Australia believes that a fundamental requirement in looking towards a resolution of the problems of Lebanon is that there should be strict respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon, within its internationally recognized boundaries.

We have accordingly followed with keen interest the efforts of the Secretary-General to discuss related issues with the parties concerned, including arrangements which would permit the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to fulfil its mandate. The fact that to date UNIFIL has been unable to fulfil its mandate is, we believe, a matter of disappointment and regret. It is likely to remain so until the Government of Lebanon is able to extend its authority throughout its entire territory.

The Security Council has a responsibility to engage in constructive attempts to bring about the restoration of peace to Lebanon. The Australian delegation has argued consistently in the Council that our deliberations should be directed towards the achievement of practical and constructive progress. In the current context, our goal should be to eliminate, or at least to minimize, the causes of violence so as to bring some relief to the long-suffering people of Lebanon

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

We believe, in particular, that all existing Security Council resolutions should be implemented in their entirety and that normal conditions of peace and security should be restored as soon as possible.

While the draft resolution before us has been considerably improved by several recent amendments, it still lacks elements which we believe should be reflected in a Security Council resolution on the situation in Lebanon. There is, for example, in our view, less than adequate reflection in this text of several important elements in earlier Security Council resolutions. Nor does the draft resolution, in our view, take full account of all recent acts on the Lebanon/Israel border.

For those reasons, Australia has been unable to subscribe fully to the text before us and we shall abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

Looking to the future, the Australian Government hopes that ways will be found to enable the troubled people of Lebanon to live in peace. This can be done only with the cessation of hostilities, the implementation of Security Council resolutions, and especially by the alleviation of the underlying causes of violence in that country.