

No. 3827

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**UNITED NATIONS  
and  
LEBANON**

**Exchange of letters constituting a provisional arrangement  
concerning the United Nations Emergency Force Leave  
Centre in Lebanon. Beirut, 20 and 29 April and 1 May  
1957**

*Official text: English.*

*Registered ex officio on 1 May 1957.*

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
et  
LIBAN**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord provisoire con-  
cernant le Centre de permissionnaires de la Force  
d'urgence des Nations Unies au Liban. Beyrouth,  
20 et 29 avril et 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1957**

*Texte officiel anglais.*

*Enregistré d'office le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1957.*

No. 3827. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING A PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND LEBANON CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE LEAVE CENTRE IN LEBANON. BEIRUT, 20 AND 29 APRIL AND 1 MAY 1957

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I

Beirut, 20 April 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force as an organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations constituted in accordance with Article 22 of the Charter. I would likewise refer to the consent which your Government has generously accorded for the creation in the Lebanon of a Leave Centre, which is considered necessary for the maintenance of the morale and continued efficient operation of the Force, particularly in view of the rigorous and difficult conditions under which its members are serving. Having in mind Article 105 of the Charter which provides that the United Nations shall enjoy in the territory of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfillment of its purposes, the accession by Lebanon to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>2</sup> and the resolutions of the General Assembly providing for the United Nations Emergency Force,<sup>3</sup> I should like to propose the following arrangements with a view to enabling the effective fulfillment of the purposes of such a Leave Centre.

OFFICE

1. As a subsidiary organ of the United Nations the Force will be represented in Lebanon by an administrative unit under the command of an officer designated by the Commander, who shall be responsible for the operation of leave centres in Lebanon.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 29 April 1957, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1, p. 363 of this volume.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, First Emergency Special Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/3354).

## ENTRY AND EXIT

2. In respect of a member of the Force entering Lebanon on duty or on leave by sea or by air there shall be presented, but not surrendered, on demand of the appropriate Lebanese authorities :

(a) his UNEF Identification Card; and

(b) either an individual or a collective movement order authorizing the movement, issued by an authority of the Force in a standard form.

3. The officer in charge of administration of the Leave Centre shall notify the appropriate Lebanese immigration, customs or other authorities of the impending arrival or departure of regularly constituted groups of members of the Force in sufficient time to enable such authorities to carry out the necessary clearance formalities with the least possible delay.

4. (a) Subject to subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this paragraph, Headquarters staff officers may enter and leave Lebanon by land on official duty, in the manner provided in paragraph 2 (a) and (b).

(b) An application for the entry and exit of a Headquarters staff officer shall be made through ILMAC for each such officer, giving his service number, rank, name, appointment, and the identification number of the vehicle in which he will be transported.

(c) It is understood that entries and departures of Headquarters staff officers under this paragraph shall be kept to a minimum consistent with the requirements of the Force.

## APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

5. The Force, as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations established by the General Assembly, enjoys the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. A member of the Force may, at the time of his entry into Lebanon on official duty or on leave, enter duty-free a reasonable quantity of personal effects as accompanied baggage.

6. In exercising the right to import duty-free articles required for the operation of a UNEF Leave Centre, the Commander will restrict such imports to such articles as are not readily available in Lebanon, or are in the nature of service institute amenities, or have a particular national significance to any national contingent of UNEF.

7. Members of the United Nations Secretariat detailed by the Secretary-General to serve with the Force remain officials of the United Nations entitled to the privileges and immunities of Articles V and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. With respect to the locally recruited personnel of the Force, however, the United Nations will assert its right only to the immunity concerning official acts provided in Section 18 (a) of that Convention. The Commander shall be entitled

to the privileges, immunities and facilities of Sections 19 and 27 of the Convention. Officers serving on the United Nations Command (the Commander's Headquarters Staff) are entitled to the privileges and immunities of Article VI of the Convention.

#### DRESS

8. A member of the Force present in Lebanon on official duty may wear uniform at all times and places.
9. A member of the Force present in Lebanon on official leave may wear uniform or civilian clothes in accordance with orders issued by the Commander.
10. The Commander shall give sympathetic consideration to requests of the Lebanese authorities respecting the dress of members of the Force present in Lebanon on official leave.
11. When in uniform, members of the Force present in Lebanon shall wear the blue beret of UNEF, and not the headdress of the national contingent to which they belong, as well as the United Nations shoulder patch.

#### VEHICLES

12. Service vehicles and aircraft of the Force shall carry a distinctive United Nations identification mark and licence which shall be notified by the Commander to the Lebanese authorities. Such vehicles and aircraft shall not be subject to registration and licensing under the laws and regulations of Lebanon. Lebanese authorities shall accept as valid, without test or fee, a permit or licence for the operation of service vehicles and aircraft issued by the Commander.

#### JURISDICTION

13. A member of the Force shall be subject to the exclusive criminal jurisdiction of the competent authorities of the Participating State to which he belongs. The Commander shall notify the Lebanese authorities of the disposition of every criminal offence committed by a member of the Force in Lebanon.
14. Members of the Force present in Lebanon on official duty shall not be subject to legal process or the civil jurisdiction of Lebanon in respect of any matter arising out of their official duties. Civil claims or disputes involving a member of the Force acting in the course of his official duty and a third party shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
15. In respect of a member of the Force present in Lebanon on official leave or otherwise acting outside the scope of his official duty, the civil courts of Lebanon may exercise jurisdiction. The Commander shall extend to the civil authorities full co-operation in

any civil suit taken against a member of the Force, including facilitating the service of civil process upon any such member of the Force and the enforcement of any judgment, decision or order against him made by a Lebanese civil court of competent jurisdiction.

16. Arrangements shall be made for the presence of a limited number of UNEF military police with a view to maintaining discipline among members of the Force in Lebanon and accompanying the appropriate Lebanese authorities to assist, in so far as members of the Force are concerned, in the maintenance of public order. The Lebanese authorities may take into custody a member of the Force, without subjecting him to the ordinary routine of arrest, in order immediately to deliver him, together with any items seized, to the authorities of the Force. The Lebanese authorities may make a preliminary interrogation but may not delay the transfer of custody.

17. The authorities of the Force and the Lebanese authorities shall assist each other in the collection and production of evidence, and in the production of witnesses, in respect of offences in which either or both have an interest.

18. The Lebanese authorities shall assist the Force in the apprehension of members of the Force reported by an authority of the Force to be absent without leave; any absentee apprehended by the Lebanese authorities shall be handed over with the least possible delay to the authorities of the Force.

#### LIAISON

19. The Commander and the Lebanese authorities shall take appropriate measures to ensure close and reciprocal liaison.

#### DECEASED MEMBERS: DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

20. The Commander shall have the right to take charge of and dispose of the body of a member of the Force who dies in Lebanese territory, and may dispose of his personal property after the debts of the deceased person incurred in Lebanese territory and owing to persons other than members of the Force have been settled.

If your Government is in agreement with these proposals, I would suggest that this letter and your reply be considered as constituting an agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, to have effect as from the date of the commencement of the administration of the Leave Centre.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E. L. M. BURNS  
Major-General  
Commander, UNEF

His Excellency Dr. Charles Malik  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Beirut, Lebanon

## II

Beirut, 29 April 1957

Major-General E. L. M. Burns  
Commander  
United Nations Emergency Force

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20 April 1957, in which you propose certain arrangements with a view to enabling the effective fulfillment of the purposes of the United Nations Emergency Force Leave Center which is to be established in Lebanon. In view of the fact that certain provisions in your letter will require review in accordance with Lebanese constitutional procedures, it will be our understanding that my present agreement to your proposed arrangements will constitute a provisional arrangement subject to such review, the first step of which will be the submission of your proposals to the Council of Ministers for their approval.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs :  
Charles MALIK

## III

1 May 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 29 April 1957, in which you express your agreement, as a provisional arrangement, to the terms of my letter of 20 April 1957 concerning the status of the Leave Centre of the United Nations Emergency Force in Lebanon. I note that certain provisions in this arrangement will require review in accordance with Lebanese constitutional procedures. I should therefore be glad to be advised of any such steps taken and in particular I shall be grateful if you will kindly inform me as soon as the terms of our letters have had the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile I wish to express my warm appreciation on behalf of the United Nations Emergency Force for the constant assistance which the officials of your Government have extended to the Force throughout the period of the many necessary preparations for the opening of the Leave Centre.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E. L. M. BURNS  
Major-General  
Commander, UNEF

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Beirut, Lebanon