

No. 4166

UNITED NATIONS
and
LEBANON

Exchange of letters (with *aide-mémoire*) constituting an agreement concerning the establishment and operation by the United Nations Emergency Force of a transit unit at the Beirut International Airport. Gaza, 21 December 1957, and Beirut, 20 January 1958

Official text : English.

Registered ex officio on 5 February 1958.

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
et
LIBAN

Échange de lettres (avec *aide-mémoire*) constituant un accord concernant la création et la gestion par la Force d'urgence des Nations Unies d'une unité de transit à l'aéroport international de Beyrouth. Gaza, 21 décembre 1957, et Beyrouth, 20 janvier 1958

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré d'office le 5 février 1958.

No. 4166. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND LEBANON CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE OF A TRANSIT UNIT AT THE BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. GAZA, 21 DECEMBER 1957, AND BEIRUT, 20 JANUARY 1958

I

HQ UNEF ME
GAZA

21 December 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my *Aide-Mémoire* dated 29 October 1957² concerning my discussions with the Prime Minister of Lebanon and to my letter of today's date with respect to arrangements for the UNEF Postal System³. In this connection, since the UNEF air transport unit and other offices in Naples are being closed after 1 February 1958, it is desired to establish our transit unit at the Beirut International Airport on a more regular basis. This unit will consist of a small detachment handling UNEF personnel, supplies and mails passing through Lebanon to and from UNEF's area of operations.

I would, therefore, appreciate at this time confirmation that the principles covered in my discussions with the Prime Minister as set forth in the *Aide-Mémoire* referred to above will apply to the operations of this unit. I believe that there can be no question that UNEF, as a subsidiary organ of the UNO established by the General Assembly, is entitled to the benefits of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations⁴ to which Lebanon is a party. I also believe that there should be no difficulty in recognizing that the provisions contained in our exchange of letters of 20 and 29 April 1957 concerning the UNEF Leave Centre in Lebanon⁵ should apply *mutatis mutandi* to the present operation.

¹ Came into force on 20 January 1958 by the exchange of the said letters.

² See p. 192 of this volume.

³ See p. 199 of this volume.

⁴ See footnote 1, p. 329 of this volume.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 226, p. 125.

With respect to paragraph 2 of my letter of 20 April I should like to request your agreement that for members of the Force passing through Lebanon at the beginning and end of their tour of duty with UNEF, the personal "I" card issued by the appropriate authority of the Participating State will be accepted in lieu of the UNEF "I" card, since the latter card will not be in their possession at that time.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) E. L. M. BURNS
Major-General
Commander, UNEF

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

C O P Y

AIDE-MÉMOIRE

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

Following discussions with the Prime Minister this morning the Commander, UNEF wishes to set forth the following information and considerations with respect to the proposed use of the Beirut International Airport as a transshipment point for UNEF personnel, supplies and mail between Naples and El Arish or other UNEF bases.

It is expected that from about 1 December 1957, following the beginning of the rainy season, the UNEF air base at El Arish will cease to be usable for C119 aircraft. At that time the United Nations desires that its C119 flights from Naples should terminate at the Beirut International Airport and that its airborne supplies, mail and personnel be transshipped from there by Dakota (C47) aircraft to El Arish or other UNEF bases. It is estimated that approximately one C119 will arrive in Beirut every three days and will depart for its return flight to Naples the following day. It is also estimated that approximately one Dakota aircraft will arrive and depart each day in connection with this operation.

It is not foreseen that any serious problem will arise. Only official United Nations operations are involved. UNEF, as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations established by the General Assembly, is of course entitled to the benefits of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations to which Lebanon is a party. This has been expressly recognized in the agreement concerning the UNEF Leave Centre in Lebanon. The same principles which are applicable to all United Nations operations and to the UNEF activities in Lebanon in connection with the Leave Centre would apply

to the present operation. It may be further noted that the supplies and mail will be transhipped from one United Nations plane to another at the Beirut International Airfield and will not be removed from the Customs Zone. It is therefore hoped that all customs and other formalities may be dispensed with in order to avoid any possible occasion for delay. Delay with respect to essential airborne supplies could seriously affect the operations of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Arrangements for adequate office and storage space and for the use of technical and maintenance facilities are being made in direct discussions with the Directorate of Civil Aviation.

Beirut, 29 October 1957

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

II

RÉPUBLIQUE LIBANAISE
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET DES LIBANAIS D'OUTRE-MER
LE MINISTRE¹

1053/5/61/3

Beirut, January 20, 1958

Major-General E. L. M. Burns
Commander, UNEF
Gaza, Egypt

Sir :

I have the honour to refer to your *aide-mémoire* dated October 29, 1957, concerning the discussions you had with the Prime Minister of Lebanon and to your letter of December 21, 1957, in which you had stated it is the UNEF's intention to establish, after the closure of its offices in Naples, a transit unit at the Beirut International Airport on a more regular basis and that this unit will handle the UNEF personnel, supplies and mails passing through Lebanon to and from the UNEF's area of operations.

Confirming the agreement in principle of the Government of Lebanon to the above proposed arrangements conveyed to your representatives on my behalf by my representative, Mr. E. Ghorra, at the conclusion of their meeting on December 26, 1957, I am happy to inform you further that our exchange of letters of

¹ Lebanese Republic.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Lebanese Overseas.
The Minister.

April 20 and 29, 1957, concerning the UNEF Leave Center is applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the present operation.

My Government is also agreeable to the members of the Force carrying the personal "I" card issued by the appropriate authorities of the participating states in lieu of the UNEF "I" card, when passing through Lebanon at the beginning or end of their tour of duty.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Charles MALIK
Minister for Foreign Affairs