

**UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
(UNIFIL)**

Naqoura,
7 September 2006

PRESS RELEASE

**UNIFIL Force Commander welcomes the continued withdrawal of IDF
from South Lebanon**

On 7 September 2006, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew from the general area of Al Bayyadah, Tayr Harfa, Shinin, Al Jibbayn, Bustan, Yarin and Al Duhayrah. UNIFIL has set up checkpoints and deployed patrols in those areas to ensure that no IDF troops are present. It is expected that in the next 24 Hrs the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) will take control of the area.

“I welcome the further withdrawal of IDF from South Lebanon in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1701,” said Major-General Alain Pellegrini, UNIFIL Force Commander, “This shows that the process is working and that regular contacts between the UNIFIL, the LAF and the IDF seed results.”

Over the past 24 Hrs, the Indian and Ghanaian battalions distributed 93,000 litres of water to several villages. The Indian and Chinese battalions and the UNFIL Hospital continued to provide medical assistance to the local population.

For further information, please contact Alexander Ivanko, UNIFIL Spokesman, at (+961) 70 910064.