

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

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PRESS RELEASE

**UNIFIL Force Commander briefs Lebanese Prime Minister about
situation in the South and IDF withdrawals**

On 12 September, UNIFIL Force Commander Major-General Alain Pellegrini met with the Prime Minister of Lebanon Fouad Siniora and briefed him on the situation in the UNIFIL area of operations. Regarding the withdrawal of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), the Force Commander expressed his hope that it would be completed soon and that the Lebanese Armed Forces will then be able to deploy throughout the South.

Major-General Pellegrini said: "I also informed the Prime Minister on the deployment of additional UNIFIL troops, on the expected arrivals of the French and Spanish contingents in the next few days thus ensuring that UNIFIL will reach 5,000 officers and soldiers very soon."

The Force Commander and the Prime Minister discussed other issues of mutual concern, especially related to UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

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