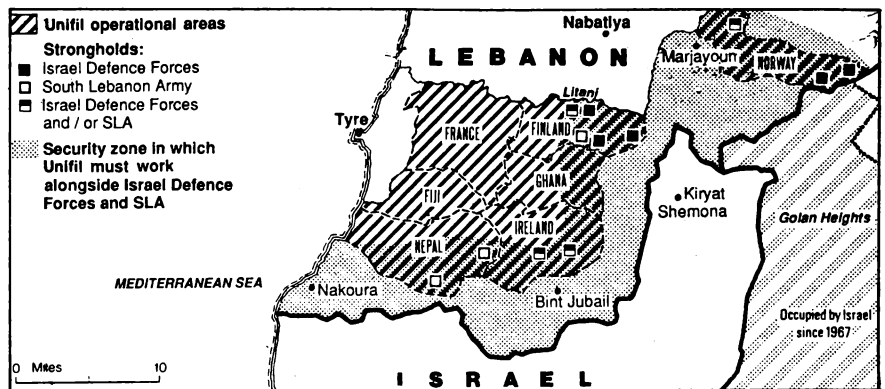


# Resolution

## 425:

# To Be Or Not To Be?



The attacks against the French units of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, which have been particularly intense in August and September, are a result of the escalation of the conflict between Amal and Hezbollah. The main issue concerns the pros and cons of implementing UN resolution 425, adopted after the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanese territory in 1978.

This resolution stipulates that the Zionists halt all military attacks on Lebanon and immediately withdraw all their forces. The resolution further requires that an «interim» force be formed, under UN auspices, «to guarantee Israeli withdrawal» and «help Lebanon to restore her sovereignty in this area.» Needless to say, this resolution, even now in 1986, has remained unimplemented. Moreover, due to the extraordinary delay, and the conflicting factors in the Lebanese arena, the Zionists have had the opportunity not only to entrench themselves in South Lebanon and cultivate their own gang of collaborators, but also to extend their influence into the heart of Beirut. Furthermore, local and regional developments have resulted in the emergence of various trends. Among these are the fundamentalist Shiite trends which have grown into a force to be reckoned with, especially in the southern quarters of Beirut and the South.

The differences between Hezbollah and Amal on how to oust the Zionist enemy from Lebanese territory have led to military acts directed not at the Zionist enemy, but at the French military unit stationed in the South. This serves to divert from the main struggle to enforce the national demands through armed struggle against the Zionist occupation. It is thus a dangerous issue to which all must be alert.

## BACKGROUND

UNIFIL was deployed in South Lebanon in the summer of 1978, after the Zionist occupation forces withdrew from some of the areas they had occupied. In the border areas, the Zion-

ists installed the fascist militias of Saad Haddad who set up their statelet as a launching pad for Zionist attacks against defenseless Lebanese civilians in the South, aiming to drive them from their homes, as a step towards permanent Israeli control. The then 6,000 soldiers of the so-called international peace-keeping forces, comprised of units from nine countries, were deployed in this area. These forces witnessed the daily perpetration of ruthless attacks carried out by the Zionists and their fascist allies. However, due to a predetermined political understanding among the imperialist countries, they were rendered incapable of deterring these attacks or establishing a secure situation to prevent the mass migration of Lebanese families northwards. On the other hand, these forces were very capable of hindering the attempts of Lebanese nationalists and Palestinians to protect the population, and attack the Zionist forces and

their fascist allies.

To give credit where credit is due, however, some of the UNIFIL units began to find it impossible to remain indifferent to the brutal Zionist attacks on Lebanese citizens, and to the glaring injustice of the whole situation. Some at times sympathized with the nationalist resistance movement, and acted on this sympathy as well. As a result, these units were sometimes targeted, along with the masses, by Zionist and fascist aggression.

The Israelis, of course, used their 1982 invasion of Lebanon to reinforce their control over the border strip. Furthermore, the Zionist lobby raised hell until the US agreed to cut financial

support to the UNIFIL and push for the removal of these forces from southern Lebanon. In this way, the Zionists anticipated a broader margin of freedom which would facilitate their atrocities on the inhabitants of the South and their exploitation of its natural resources, chiefly water. While this aggression has not been actively hindered by the UNIFIL forces, their physical presence can result in embarrassment for the Zionist enemy's imperialist allies, if the Israeli forces act as if they are not present at all. However, the Soviet Union stepped in to compensate for the financial deficiency which the US left in the UNIFIL's budget, thus foiling the enemies' expectations for the time being.

After the blow dealt to the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon in 1982, especially in the South, the Zionist and imperialist forces worked to fill the vacuum with collaborators, such as the so-called National Guards. At the same time, the Lebanese nationalists and the Palestinian resistance began to reassemble their ranks, leading to the escalation of armed struggle. This challenged the 'undisputable military edge' of the Zionist forces, and escalated to the point of threatening their very presence. No method was spared in attacking the enemy - sniping, booby-trapped donkeys, remote-controlled explosions and waves of missions carried out by selfless guerrillas who gave their lives. In 1985, 1165 military operations were carried out in the South against the Zionist occupiers and their local agents. Not only were the enemy forces subject to daily attacks in the South, including in the heart of what they so arrogantly claim as their 'security zone', the