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Ambassador Haley Presses UNIFIL to Thwart Spread of Hezbollah Weapons

On Aug. 7, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) Nikki Haley urged the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to increase its efforts to prevent Hezbollah from acquiring illegal weapons. Haley stated that the United States is seeking "significant improvements" to UNIFIL as the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) considers later this month the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate—set to expire on Aug. 31. "These arms—which are almost entirely in the hands of Hezbollah terrorists—threaten the security and stability of the region. UNIFIL must increase its capacity and commitment to investigating and reporting these violations," said Haley. Ambassador Haley's statement came in response to an Aug. 4 letter from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the UNSC regarding ways UNIFIL could potentially "enhance its efforts." "We share the Secretary-General's strong desire to enhance UNIFIL's efforts to prevent the spread of illegal arms in southern Lebanon," said Haley. "The United States will continue to raise the threat posed by Hezbollah as we seek significant improvements to UNIFIL when the Security Council renews its mandate this month."