

May 1, 2007

Secretary Rice
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Madame Secretary:

We write with serious concern over the continuing illegal transfer of arms to the Hezbollah terrorist organization across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

As you know, Secretary of State Warren Christopher designated Hezbollah an official Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) under U.S. law (8 U.S.C. 1101) in October 1997. According to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Hezbollah murdered 241 U.S. servicemen in 1983 at the Marine barracks in Beirut. Hezbollah also claimed responsibility for the murder of 17 Americans at the U.S. embassy in Beirut under the pseudonym, "Islamic Jihad." Most recently, you recertified Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization on October 11, 2005.

During the August 2006 conflict in Lebanon, Hezbollah demonstrated new and dangerous military capabilities. For the first time, we saw the use of the Iranian C-802 anti-ship guided missile and the capability to rapidly deliver large clusters of Katyusha rockets and Fajr-3 missiles. A fully re-armed Hezbollah poses a clear and present danger to U.S. forces in the Mediterranean, to the safety and security of our democratic allies and to the continued existence of a democratic government in Lebanon.

On April 17, 2007, the President of the U.N. Security Council declared: "The Security Council, in this context, expresses its serious concern at mounting information by Israel and another State of illegal movements of arms across the Lebanese-Syrian border in violation of resolution 1701."

We ask you to work within the Council to give the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) the mandate it needs to stop the illegal movements of arms across the Syrian border. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1701, UNIFIL cannot engage Hezbollah forces transferring arms across the Syrian border without a specific request from the Lebanese Armed Forces. To date, no such requests have been made.

We note that you requested nearly \$168 million in the FY08 budget for the U.S. contribution to UNIFIL. This is in addition to the \$184 million contained in the FY07 supplemental request. For more than \$350 million in U.S. taxpayer assistance, we expect to see a United Nations force with a mandate and funding to stop the re-arming of Hezbollah—not an expensive observer force that stands by and watches the outbreak of a second war.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter. We hope you can find agreement within the Security Council expeditiously to give UNIFIL the mandate it needs to stop the re-arming of a foreign terrorist organization responsible for the deaths of more than 258 Americans.

Respectfully,