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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 31 March 1989, at 6.15 p.m.

President: Mrs. DIALLO

(Senegal)

Members: Algeria
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Malaysia
Nepal
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Yugoslavia

Mr. DJOUDI
Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA
Mr. KIRSCH
Mr. LI Luye
Mr. PEÑALOSA
Mr. TADESSE
Mr. TORNUDD
Mr. BLANC
Mr. RAZALI
Mr. RANA
Mr. BELONOGOV

Sir Crispin TICKELL
Mr. OKUN
Mr. PEJIC

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The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of March, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Jai Pratap Rana, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of February. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Rana for the great diplomatic skill, tact and courtesy with which he conducted the business of the Council last month.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting today in accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The members of the Security Council express their grave concern at the recent deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, which has left many victims among the civilian population and caused considerable material damage.

"In view of the threat that this situation poses to peace, security and stability in the region, they express encouragement and support for all ongoing efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis, notably those made by the Ministerial Committee of the League of Arab States, led by

(The President)

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

"They urge all the parties to put an immediate end to the confrontations, to respond favourably to the appeals launched for an effective cease-fire and to avoid any action that might further heighten the tension.

"They reaffirm their support for the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon.

"The members of the Security Council also stress the importance of the role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and reaffirm their resolve to continue to keep the evolution of the situation in Lebanon under close review."

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to express my appreciation to all the members of the Council and to the Secretary-General and his colleagues who have given me their valuable assistance and co-operation during the month of March. I also wish to include in those thanks all the United Nations Secretariat staff.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.