

UN Official Says Sanctions Possible Against Israel

In an Aug. 28 interview with the Executive Intelligence Review, a United Nations Secretariat official well acquainted with the Lebanon situation assessed that the U.N. has the means to apply coercive force against Israel in Lebanon. He claimed that such a scheme is under study by the Lebanese government, but is being blocked by the U.S. Here, his comments:

“At present, there is no motion before the Security Council to try to get the UN to act coercively in southern Lebanon. Privately, this is under discussion, but not at the actual discussion stage yet. UNIFIL’s mandate will be evaluated Sept. 18, so something could develop by then.”

“One legal possibility, admittedly very remote at this point, is to use force in the sense laid down by U.N. Security Council charter Chapter 7, which first makes provisions for peaceful measures, but, if these are not sufficient, Chapter 7 allows for the Security Council, under conditions of a threat to international peace and security, to force the aggressor to yield. Sanctions and blockades can then be applied. A force with coercive powers can be created. This would be a very special force, directed by the UN Security Council, with a special military staff committed composed of top-level representatives of the general staffs of the major powers.

“This has never been applied because of the postwar U.S.-Soviet cold war, but theoretically it can still be created, under which conditions Israel will be viewed as the aggressing party against which action must be taken.

“In lieu of Chapter 7 being implemented, the Secretary-General can apply what we call 6 and a half, which alters the deployment of the *voluntary* peacekeeping forces such as those currently in Lebanon. This would occur, in most cases, after a request made to the Security Council by a UN country which is then voted up favorably by the Security Council members.

“These initiatives can be raised by Lebanon, or any of its friends in the Arab group, at the Security Council at any time. There is nothing before the Council now, but the Lebanese government is raising the possibility privately, making studies and so on, of such a coercive operation being implemented. At present, the Lebanese are known to be upset that the U.S. is indicating firmly that it will block any such measure and is therefore committed to throwing up obstructions to its implementation.”

