

①

Resolution on
“Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon”

UK Explanation of Position

8 December, 2006

Mr President,

The United Kingdom of course endorses the statement made by Finland on behalf of the EU. *And I would particularly like to* We acknowledge the efforts of the distinguished Ambassador of Lebanon to achieve a *an agreed* ~~consensus~~ text.

It is deeply tragic that so many lives, on both sides of the border, were lost during the fighting in July and August this year. We have consistently expressed our deep concern about the number of deaths, casualties and displaced persons that were caused as a result of this conflict. *//* The United Kingdom will continue to play a significant part in the humanitarian and recovery efforts in Lebanon. And we echo the words of the EU Presidency in expressing our full support for the democratically elected Government of Lebanon.

(2)

Mr President,

It is fundamentally important for this Council to give fair and balanced consideration to all the issues that it addresses. Our aim must always be to seek and encourage solutions, not to deepen divisions. This Council must address urgent situations of concern wherever they arise. But, as the mandate in resolution 60/251 makes clear, we must do so in a manner that reflects the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

And this brings me to our difficulty, Mr President. That is that the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry established in resolution S-2/1 was one-sided. That is why my country could not support it ^{when it was adopted.} It did not permit the Commission to conduct its investigation in that objective and non-selective manner which should always be the basis of our approach. The Commission itself quite rightly drew attention to this point as clearly as it possibly could in its report. I quote:

“It is clear that the mandate of the Commission has limits...and does not allow for a full examination of all of the aspects of the conflict, nor does it permit consideration of the conduct of all parties.”

3

and further:

"The Commission considers that any independent, impartial and objective investigation into a particular conduct during the course of hostilities must of necessity be with reference to all the belligerents involved."

Mr President,

We see these comments as a clear signal to the Council. We should heed it, both in this context, and in our future work. We must be, and be seen to be, fair, objective and even-handed.

Mr President, the text before us has been amended in important ways which have gone ~~quite~~ a long way to meet our concerns. We have, ~~somewhat reluctantly, accepted its adoption by consensus~~ But we must again make it absolutely clear ~~that we believe~~ that any follow-up to the work of this Commission must be conducted on an objective and non-selective basis which allows for proper consideration of the conduct of all parties.

Thank you.

and again
I think the work
of the
D.A.D.
helps
in this
respect.