Naqoura, Lebanon (29 November 2006) -- The strength of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has continued to rise with the deployment of additional troops from Indonesia, Portugal and Italy. The current total is around 10,500 troops from 21 countries, comprising of 8,800 ground troops and 1,700 naval personnel.

UNIFIL peacekeepers continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the local population, including medical, dental and veterinarian aid. In the last seven days there were 361 instances where UNIFIL peacekeepers provided medical assistance, 56 instances of dental care, and 749 occasions on which veterinary services were provided.

In the time period involved, UNIFIL de-miners from various national contingents destroyed over 300 separate explosive devices. These included rockets, grenades, and cluster bombs.

For further information, please contact Ari Gaitanis at the UNIFIL Public Information Office on: gaitanis@un.org (email), +961 1 827 058 (telephone) and +961 1 827 016 (fax).