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Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing now again on behalf of the United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) on the crisis in the Middle East to express the deepening dismay of our membership at the failure of the international community and, in particular, leading countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom to take effective action to bring the fighting to an end.

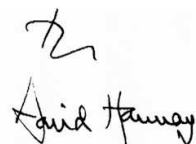
In particular we deplore:

- The continued deaths of civilians, including the large loss of life at Qana, and in many cases the targeting of civilians.
- The failure of Israel and Hezbollah to agree to an immediate ceasefire, and the unwillingness of the US and the UK to call upon the parties to do so.
- The failure of the Israeli government to agree to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's request for a joint UN-Israeli or international investigation into the killing of four UN observers in the Khiyam area of southern Lebanon. (If the deaths were unintended, what does Israel have to fear from an independent investigation?)

While we recognise the importance of disarming Hezbollah, as demanded by Israel and as required under Security Council resolution 1559, we believe that Israel's current military tactics will not achieve this goal. Instead, Israel is coming under increasing and justifiable criticism whilst Hezbollah appears to be gaining widespread support, particularly in Arab countries.

UNA-UK calls upon the British government to promote forcefully to all the parties a solution which would include a robust international force, with UN Security Council authorisation and a Security Council mandate, and to ensure effective respect for this mandate by Hezbollah and Israel. We believe that all five permanent members of the Security Council should be directly involved in the mounting of this international force with a view to increasing its credibility and effectiveness, and that the UK government should press the case for this with the US administration.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
Chair of UNA-UK