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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

(for the period 22 May to 24 November 1975)

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MAP: UNDOF DEPLOYMENT SITUATION AS OF NOVEMBER 1975

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 22 May to 24 November 1975. Its purpose is to provide the Security Council with a comprehensive picture of the activities of UNDOF in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to it by the Council in resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and extended by resolutions 363 (1974) of 29 November 1974 and 369 (1975) of 28 May 1975.

2. During the period covered by the present report, UNDOF has continued to supervise the area of separation and inspect the areas of limitation of armaments and forces in accordance with its mandate. With the co-operation of both parties, UNDOF has been able to contribute to the maintenance of the cease-fire called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

3. As of 24 November 1975, the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	519
Canada	121
Iran	385
Poland	75
Headquarters staff on secondment from UNEF	4
Military observers (detailed from UNTSO)	88
	<hr/> 1,192

4. In a letter dated 3 July 1975, I informed the President of the Security Council of my efforts to find a suitable replacement for the contingent provided by the Government of Peru, which had announced its intention to withdraw its battalion before the end of July 1975. On 21 July 1975, I informed the members of the Council that, with the agreement of the Government of Iran, I proposed to replace the Peruvian contingent by a contingent from Iran, and the Council agreed with my proposal (S/11768). Accordingly, arrangements were made for the dispatch of an Iranian contingent, the first elements of which arrived in the area on 26 August 1975.

5. With the consent of the Security Council (S/11750), I appointed Major-General Hannes Philipp of Austria, formerly Officer-in-Charge, as Commander of UNDOF. He continues in that capacity.

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27. The work of making the A and B lines more easily identifiable on the ground has continued. Work on the B line has been completed.

Areas of limitation

28. UNDOF has continued to carry out the inspection of the areas of limitation of armaments and forces as provided for in the Agreement. The inspections are carried out with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams in their respective areas. In accordance with the procedure agreed to by the parties, the findings of the inspections are made available only to them. UNDOF lends its assistance and good offices in cases where one of the parties raises questions concerning the observance of the agreed limitation of armaments and forces. In carrying out this function, UNDOF has continued to receive the full co-operation of both parties.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

29. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report of 12 November 1975 to the General Assembly (A/10350, para. 17) on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the costs of UNDOF beyond 30 November 1975, should the Security Council renew its mandate beyond that date, would be of the order of \$1.3 million per month, assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

30. In deciding in its resolution 369 (1975) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months until 30 November 1975, the Security Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit at the end of that period a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement its resolution 338 (1973).

31. In my last report on UNDOF (S/11694), I indicated that efforts had been made on several levels to advance the implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973). Those efforts have continued during the period under review. In particular, there have been contacts between the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East and between them and other parties concerned. I have remained involved in the efforts to advance the implementation of resolution 338 (1973) and my current visit to the area is directly related to those efforts.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

32. During the period under review, the situation in the UNDOF area of operations has remained quiet except for the incidents referred to earlier in this report.

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D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

21. During the period under review, the cease-fire has been maintained. There was, however, one shooting incident, as a result of which two Syrian shepherds lost their lives, and alleged crossings of the area of separation resulting, in one case, in the death of three Israeli citizens (see paras. 24 and 25 below).

E. Supervision of the Agreement on Disengagement with regard to the areas of separation and limitation

Area of separation

22. UNDOF has continued to supervise the area of separation to ensure that there are no military forces within it, in accordance with its mandate. It has carried out this function by means of static posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by mobile patrols.

23. UNDOF has continued to carry out its task within the area of separation in a manner which neither hampers the Syrian administration nor derogates from Syrian sovereignty. Good relations have been maintained between UNDOF and the civilian authorities, as well as with the civilian population in the area.

24. UNDOF has continued to investigate complaints from both parties concerning alleged violations of the Agreement with regard to the area of separation and to draw the attention of the parties to violations it has itself observed, with a view to having corrective action taken. One complaint concerned the incident of 14 October 1975, as a result of which two Syrian shepherds were shot and killed by an Israeli patrol. The Israeli authorities stated that the shepherds had crossed the A line and had refused to move after warning shots had been fired in the air. A member of the patrol had then fired, hitting two of the shepherds. The Israeli authorities regretted the loss of life. Arrangements have since been worked out in co-operation with the parties with a view to preventing such incidents in the future.

25. UNDOF also received two complaints from the Israeli authorities concerning incidents involving infiltration by irregular armed persons across the area of separation on 29 October and 20 November. The second incident, which took place at Ramat Magshimim, resulted in the death of three Israeli citizens. Although UNDOF could not confirm any crossing of the area of separation, unusual military activity was observed in the vicinity of Ramat Magshimim on the night mentioned in the Israeli complaint.

26. The existence of mines within the area of separation continues to constitute a hazard both to members of UNDOF and to the civilian population. During the period under review, a number of injuries were sustained and at least one Syrian civilian was killed as a result of mine explosions. UNDOF mine-clearing teams have continued their work and have increased the area accessible to foot and vehicle patrols.

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13. Efforts to find a building in Damascus suitable for UNDOF headquarters have been successful and all elements of the staff now have office space in one building. In addition, housing for all military personnel on the staff is now available in buildings rented by UNDOF.

B. Logistic support

14. Logistic support for UNDOF continues to be provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units as outlined in my report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 25-27). The Polish unit also provided a mine-clearing capability.

15. At the present time, several major logistic projects are under way, including the building of additional warehouse space and a vehicle repair and maintenance facility in the base camp near Ziouani. Plans are being developed to build a petrol, oil and lubricants storage facility and dispensing unit in the other base camp.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

16. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF, as well as its tasks, remain as outlined in my report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 8-10).

17. UNDOF has been able, with the co-operation of the parties, to carry out the tasks entrusted to it. This has been facilitated by the close contact maintained by the Force Commander and his staff with the military liaison staffs of Israel and Syria. In his capacity as Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East, Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo has continued to take part in high-level contacts and, as occasion requires, in meetings between the Force Commander and military representatives of Israel and Syria concerning the functions of the Force.

B. Freedom of movement

18. Despite the efforts made towards resolving the question of freedom of movement, the arrangements that have been worked out still fall short of what is required and of what is provided for in the Protocol to the Agreement on Disengagement. Efforts are continuing to secure full acceptance of this important principle.

C. Personnel matters

19. The general discipline, understanding and bearing of all members of UNDOF have been of a high order, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents to the Force.

20. The Force has suffered no fatal casualties during the period under review.

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B. Deployment

6. UNDOF personnel continue to be deployed within or close to the area of separation, with base camps and logistic support units situated close to that area.
7. The Austrian battalion mans positions in the area of separation north of the Damascus-Quneitra road. Its base camp is located near the Wadi of Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Iranian battalion is deployed south of the Damascus-Quneitra road, with its base camp near the village of Ziouani just west of the area of separation.
8. The Iranians share their base camp with the Canadian logistic unit, and the Austrians share theirs with the Polish logistic unit. The Canadian signals troop has detachments at the two base camps and in Damascus. The military observers operate out of Tiberias and Damascus. The UNDOF liaison officer in Jerusalem has, since September 1975, been reassigned to the Office of the Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East.
9. When the Peruvian battalion was withdrawn on 10 July 1975, an independent Austrian company was formed from the Austrian battalion and temporarily took over responsibility for the southern part of the area of separation.
10. The Iranian battalion assumed responsibility for the southern part of the area of separation on 12 September 1975. At the same time, the interbattalion boundary was moved slightly north to the Damascus-Quneitra road and minor changes were made in the location and numbering of positions and observation posts. The new locations are shown on the attached map.

C. Rotation

11. The Austrian battalion carried out partial rotations in May, June and August 1975. The Peruvian battalion was repatriated in July 1975. The first elements of the Iranian battalion arrived on 26 August 1975 and the main body in September. The Canadian and Polish units rotate in small groups at regular intervals.

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

12. The standard of accommodations at the UNDOF base camps and positions continues to improve. Covered washing and cooking facilities annexed to the prefabricated buildings at the positions will be completed by the end of November. A programme for the provision of protective shelters at base camps and positions is also nearing completion.

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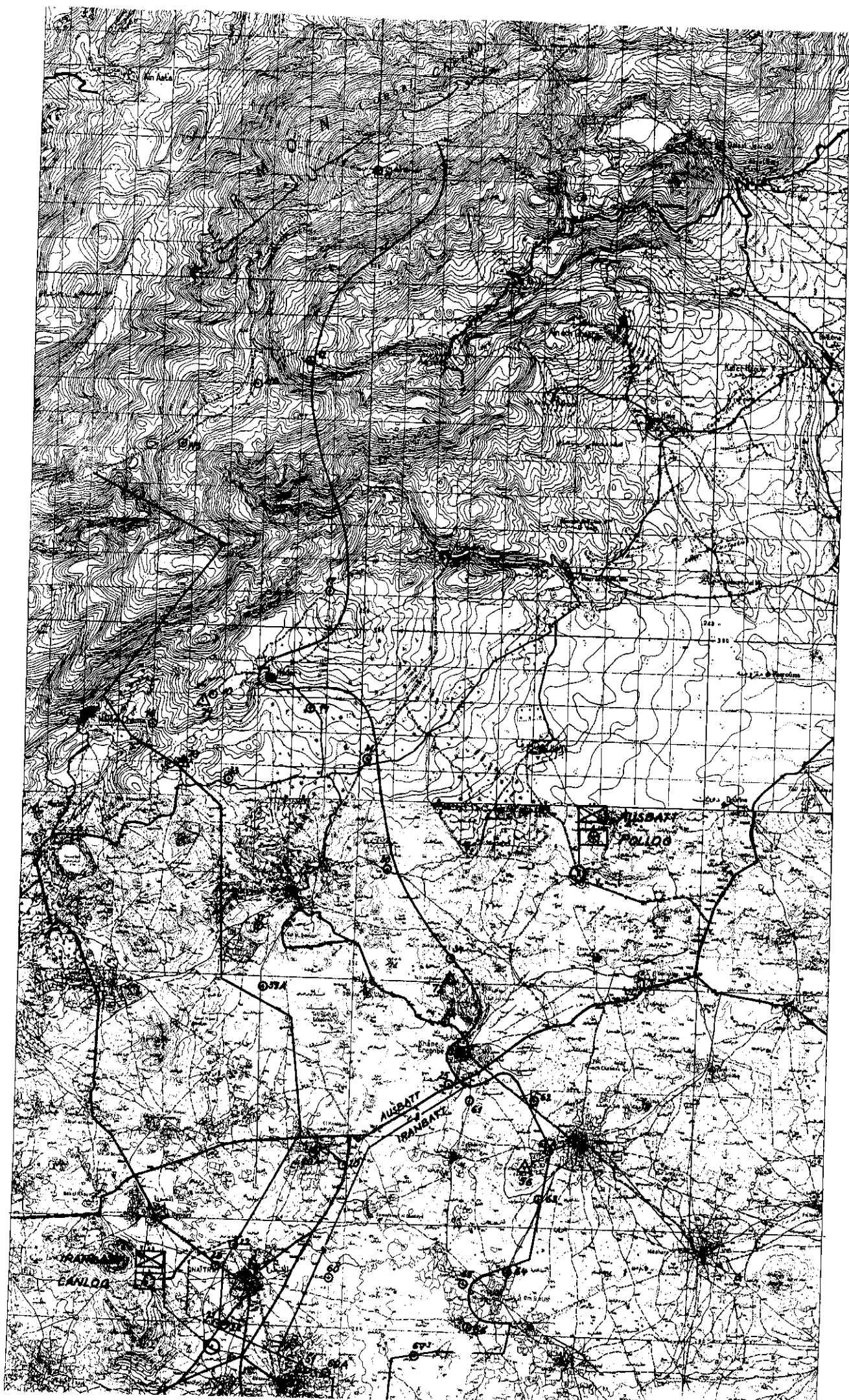
Both parties have continued generally to comply with the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and with the Agreement on Disengagement between the Israeli and Syrian Forces of 31 May 1974.

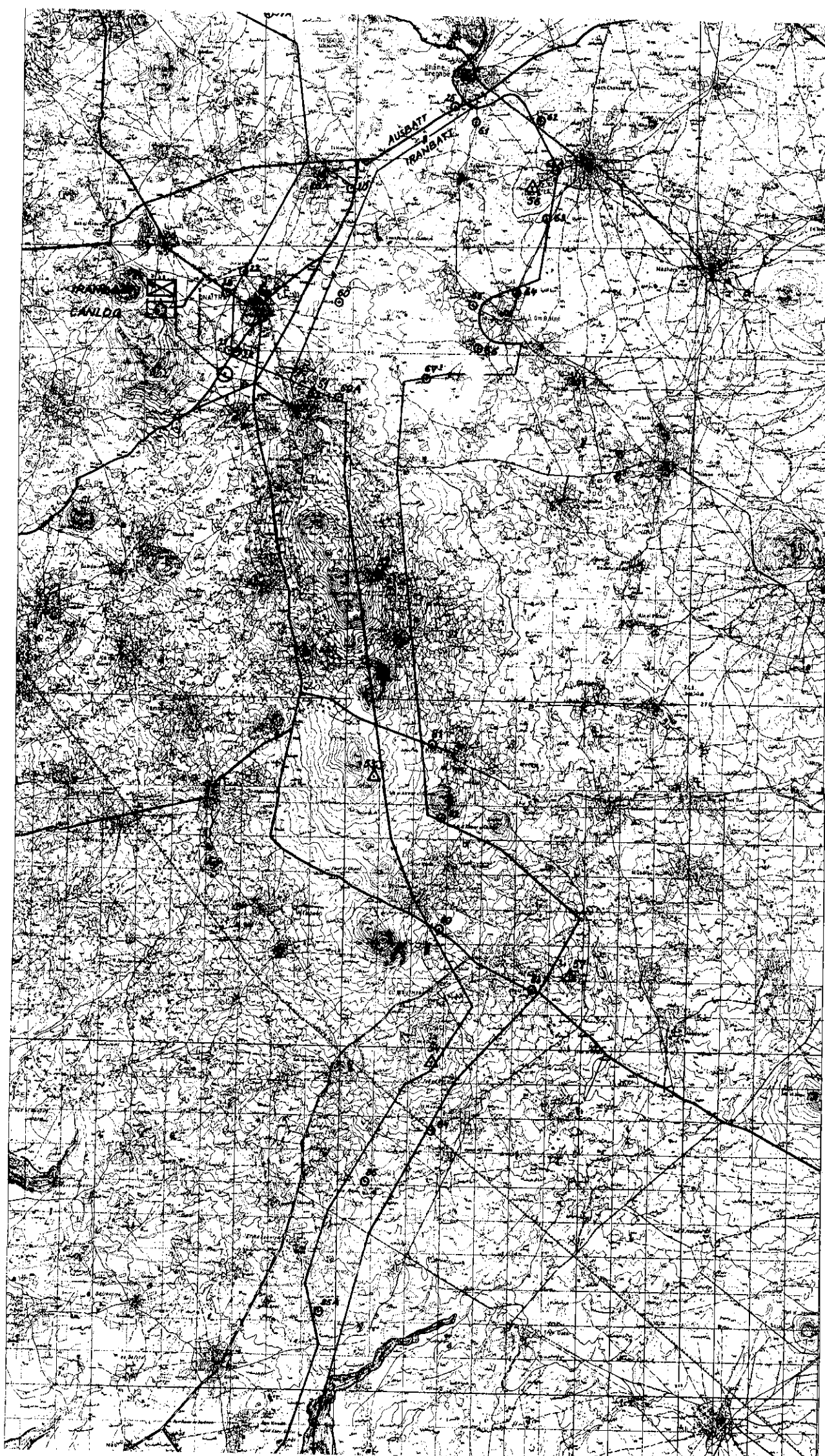
33. The present quiet, however, remains precarious. As I recalled in my last report on UNDOF (S/11694), the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces is not a peace agreement but only a step towards a just and durable peace on the basis of Security Council resolution 338 (1973). Unless further progress can be made towards the objective set forth in that resolution, the situation in the area will be unstable and, with the passage of time, increasingly dangerous.

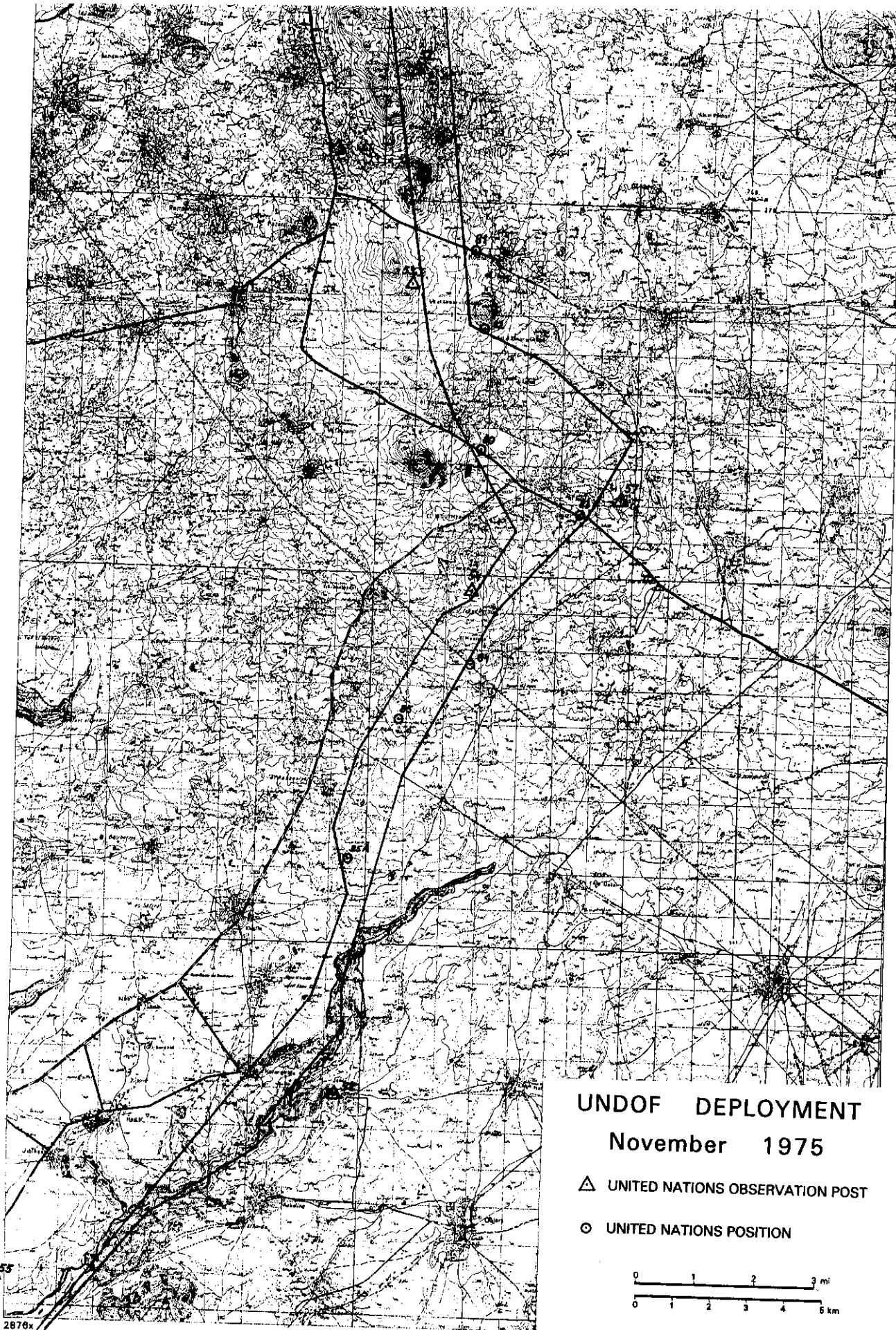
34. It is my considered view that the presence of UNDOF continues to be essential, not only to maintain quiet in the Israel-Syria sector but also to provide an atmosphere conducive to further peace efforts and to assist in such efforts, if required. As members of the Security Council are aware, I am at present undertaking a visit to the area to discuss with the parties concerned the present situation in all its aspects, including the question of the extension of the UNDOF mandate. I shall report to the Security Council on the latter question as soon as possible.

35. In concluding this report, I wish to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those which provide UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force. I wish also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Force Commander, Major-General Hannes Philipp, to the officers and men of UNDOF and its civilian staff, as well as to UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF, for the efficient manner in which they have performed their important and difficult tasks.

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UNDOF DEPLOYMENT
November 1975

△ UNITED NATIONS OBSERVATION POST

○ UNITED NATIONS POSITION

