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Further progress report of the Secretary-General
on the United Nations Emergency Force

1. Since my last progress report dated 19 April 1974 (S/11248/Add.1), the military situation in the UNEF area of operations has remained quiet and the Force continues to carry out effectively the tasks entrusted to it.

Composition and deployment

2. On 13 May 1974 the strength of the Force, including UNEF headquarters staff and brigade headquarters staff, was as follows:

Austria	610
Canada	1,075
Finland	516
Ghana	509
Indonesia	548
Ireland	323
Nepal	571
Panama	406
Peru	352
Poland	827
Senegal	399
Sweden	509
Total	<u>6,645</u>

3. The following rotations of personnel of the contingents have taken place during the period under review or will commence in the near future:

(a) Swedish battalion: During the period from 18 to 24 April 135 members of the battalion were repatriated and replaced by 28 personnel, with a view to reducing its over-all strength.

(b) Irish battalion: During the period from 26 April to 1 May, 268 members of the battalion were repatriated and replaced by 321 personnel.

(c) Peruvian battalion: Partial rotation of the contingent is planned to take place at the end of May.

(d) Finnish battalion: During the period from 28 to 30 April, 373 members of the battalion were repatriated and replaced by 290 personnel, with a view to reducing its over-all strength.

(e) Austrian battalion: A partial rotation will take place in the period from 10 to 16 May.

(f) Panamanian battalion: A rotation of 225 members of the battalion is planned to take place on 22 May.

(g) Polish logistic element: The personnel will be rotated in small groups between 16 May and 16 July.

(h) Canadian logistic element: The personnel are rotated in small groups at regular intervals.

4. Brigadier-General E. A. Erskine of Ghana assumed his functions as Chief of Staff of UNEF on 10 May. He succeeds Colonel P. D. Hogan, of Ireland, who served as Chief of Staff from the inception of UNEF until 25 March 1974.

5. Brigadier-General G. Briceño of Peru replaced Brigadier-General G. Ibañez O'Brien as Commanding Officer of the Northern Brigade. After an initial period of visits to the area and briefings, he took effective command on 10 May.

6. Brigadier H. Soetanto of Indonesia has completed his tour of duty as Commanding Officer of the Southern Brigade and will be replaced by Brigadier S. Memet, also of Indonesia.

Deployment and activities

7. The location of UNEF battalions in the zone of disengagement remains as described in the map attached to my report of 1 April (S/11248). The battalions are manning positions in that zone as follows:

(a) The Irish battalion is manning a forward command post and six outposts in its sector.

(b) The Panamanian battalion is manning a forward command post, a reserve position and six outposts in its sector.

(c) The Peruvian battalion is manning a forward command post and six outposts in its sector.

(d) The Swedish battalion is manning a forward command post and 11 outposts in its sector.

(e) The Indonesian battalion is manning a forward command post and eight outposts in its sector.

(f) The Ghanaian battalion is manning a forward command post and six outposts in its sector.

(g) The Austrian battalion is manning a forward command post and six outposts in its sector.

(h) The Senegalese battalion is manning a forward command post, a reserve position and seven outposts in its sector.

(i) The Finnish battalion is manning a forward command post, a reserve position and 12 outposts in its sector.

8. Part of the Nepalese battalion remains in Cairo, acting as Force reserve. One company moved to the UNEF camp in Ismailia on 5 May and is performing security tasks there. Another company of the Nepalese battalion was placed under the command of the Finnish battalion from 27 April to 2 May and occupied during that period the northern half of the Finnish sector in the zone of disengagement, thus freeing a Finnish company for rotation during that period.

9. The Canadian and Polish logistic elements at present stationed in Cairo will gradually commence moving to the UNEF camp in Ismailia during the second half of May, although the camp still needs extensive repairs before it can be put into full operational use. These logistic elements of the Force continue to provide logistic, engineering and communications support for the Force.

10. The Swedish battalion is moving its base camp from the buildings it now occupies in Ismailia, which have been assigned to UNEF headquarters, to a tent camp in the vicinity.

11. UNEF headquarters in Cairo will gradually commence its transfer to Ismailia at the end of May, although because of local conditions in that area, a number of services must continue to rely on support from Cairo, where UNEF will maintain premises, a liaison staff and an alternative office for the Force Commander.

Activities of the Force

12. The Force continues the manning, patrolling and control of the zone of disengagement and conducts weekly inspections of the Israeli and Egyptian areas of limited armaments and forces, as well as inspections of other areas agreed by the parties.

13. No significant incidents have been observed during the period under review. Overflights of the zone of disengagement have continued to take place, in most cases by aircraft which cannot be identified owing to their high altitude. Minor incursions into the zone of disengagement by military personnel of the parties have been promptly rectified by the UNEF battalions concerned.

14. At a meeting held in the zone of disengagement on 9 May between military representatives of Israel and Egypt, in the presence of a UNEF officer, it was agreed to recommence the operation for the recovery of the bodies of soldiers killed during the hostilities in the Suez Canal area (see S/11248, para. 53). The parties have agreed to rely on UNEF assistance in this operation and the modalities for carrying it out will be determined at meetings which have been planned to take place in the near future.

15. Rechecking of the A and B lines (S/11248/Add.1, para. 11) continues to take place at selected points with the co-operation of the parties.

Other matters

16. Further efforts have been made, in the period under review, as regards the question of freedom of movement for all contingents of UNEF in the operational area, to which I referred in my report of 1 April 1974 (S/11248, para. 71).

17. Further consultations were held during the period under review with the representatives of the countries contributing contingents to UNEF. These consultations were part of the study of the possibility of standardizing costs and determining a ceiling as requested by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session (see A/9428, para. 42, and S/11248, paras. 60-61). Some preliminary suggestions have been presented as a basis for the consideration by the troop-contributing countries of this problem, and certain additional information has been requested of them. The consultations are continuing.
