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

1. By its resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, the Security Council decided to set up immediately under its authority a United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to this effect. The Council also took note of the Secretary-General's reports of 29 and 30 May (S/11302 and Add.1) and of his statement at the 1773rd meeting of the Council on 30 May signifying his intention to set up the Force on the basis of the same general principles as those defined in his report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 340 (1973) (S/11052/Rev.1), approved by the Council in its resolution 341 (1973).
2. Following the adoption of resolution 350 (1974), I made a statement to the Council proposing certain interim arrangements to give effect to that resolution. These arrangements would ensure that the necessary preparations could be made for action within the time-limits set in paragraph D of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces (S/11302/Add.1, annex A). My proposals were agreed to by the Council at its 1774th meeting.
3. Pursuant to the Council's decisions, on 31 May I requested the Governments of Austria and Peru to agree to the urgent transfer to UNDOF of their contingents currently serving with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East. I also requested the Governments of Canada and Poland to agree to the transfer of elements of the Canadian and Polish UNEF contingents to UNDOF, where they would provide the same kind of logistic services as they do in UNEF. The four Governments, through their permanent representatives, have since indicated their agreement to this request. Pending parliamentary approval, which is expected shortly, the agreement of the Austrian Government was for the move of Austrian personnel within the framework of the existing arrangements for UNEF. At my request, the Government of Peru has agreed to defer for one month the rotation of its contingent, scheduled for June 1974.
4. In accordance with the terms of paragraph D of the Disengagement Agreement, the Egyptian-Israeli Military Working Group of the Geneva Peace Conference started its work under the aegis of the United Nations immediately after the signing of that Agreement. Lt. General Ensio Siilasvuo, Commander of UNEF, presided over the Working Group. When I visited Geneva on 2 June, Mr. Roberto E. Guyer, Under-Secretary-General and my personal representative at the Conference, and General Siilasvuo briefed me on the Working Group's deliberations, and they have

since kept me fully informed. I reviewed with Mr. Guyer and General Siilasvuo all aspects of the UNDOF mandate and operation in the light of the discussions in the Working Group, especially as those related to the operational tasks of UNDOF during the forthcoming disengagement process, particularly in the establishment of temporary buffer zones to facilitate the separation of forces. As a result of those discussions, I issued instructions for preliminary steps to be taken to move advance elements of UNDOF to the operational area on 3 June with a view to making the Force operational there by the evening of 5 June.

5. On 3 June, with the agreement of the Government of Peru, I appointed Brigadier General Gonzalo Briceño Zevallos as interim Commander of UNDOF. General Briceño had been serving as commander of the Northern Brigade of UNEF, with headquarters in Rabah.

6. In accordance with my instructions, General Briceño, accompanied by a nucleus of headquarters staff officers, proceeded to Damascus from Cairo by air at 1030 hours GMT on 3 June and established temporary offices in the building occupied in Damascus by the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission. On the same day the following movements took place:

(a) A reconnaissance party of 29 members of the Austrian contingent left by air from Cairo at 1145 GMT, arriving in Damascus in the evening.

(b) A reconnaissance group of 40 members of the Peruvian battalion left Rabah by road during the morning and arrived at Quneitra in the evening.

(c) A Canadian logistic reconnaissance party of four men and one jeep departed from Cairo by United Nations aircraft at 0930 GMT, landed at Ben Gurion Airport at Lod and proceeded to Tiberias by road.

7. Troop movements on 4 June and proposed movements on 5 June are as follows:

(a) Sixty personnel and 13 vehicles from UNEF Northern Brigade headquarters, including a Canadian signals detachment, reached Quneitra in the early afternoon. They will remain there for a few days before dividing into the component parts of main and advanced headquarters.

(b) A Peruvian advance party of 201 personnel and 29 vehicles reached a camp 1.5 kilometres south of Quneitra during the afternoon, where they will remain pending redeployment to their operational tasks.

(c) The Austrian advance party, consisting of 200 personnel and about 44 vehicles, reached an area south of Tiberias during the late evening. They spent the night there; on 5 June they will cross the lines to join their reconnaissance party in barracks near Kanakir, between UNTSO patrol bases 31 (AMR 2449-2892) and 34 (AMR 2534-2937).

(d) A Polish transport platoon consisting of 60 personnel and 24 vehicles reached an area about 45 kilometres north of Tel Aviv, where they spent the night. They will cross the lines of 5 June and join the Canadians and Austrians in the barracks at Kanakir.

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(e) A Canadian logistic advance party consisting of 110 personnel and 38 vehicles reached the Tiberias area late in the evening, where they spent the night. They will cross the lines on 5 June and join the Austrians in the barracks at Kanakir.

(f) A small forward headquarters is in the process of being set up within the UNTSO compound at Quneitra. This comprises a Canadian signals element, which has already established a net with the Austrians at Kanakir and with the Peruvians in the camp south of Quneitra.

8. I arrived in Damascus early on 5 June and met with Major-General B. Liljestrand, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, and General Briceño. After reviewing problems of initial deployment of UNDOF, we visited the UNDOF area of operations. During that visit I inspected the reconnaissance party of the Austrian contingent near Saassa and the reconnaissance party of the Peruvian contingent in a camp south of Quneitra.

9. The strength of the contingents being transferred from UNEF is approximately as follows: Austrian contingent - 500; Peruvian contingent - 350; Canadian and Polish logistic elements - 250. In addition to the contingents from UNEF, approximately 90 UNTSO military observers, who are deployed in the area, are to be transferred to UNDOF.

10. In concluding this report, I wish to pay tribute to the two Governments directly concerned, Israel and Syria, for their excellent co-operation and for the speed and efficiency with which they have made the necessary preparations for the initial moves of UNDOF.
