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

1. Following my last progress report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (S/11310/Add.2), the Force has continued to carry out the tasks entrusted to it in supervision of the Geneva Agreement.

Composition

2. The composition of UNDOF on 29 July was as follows:

Austria	476
Canada	129
Peru	352
Poland	91
Military observers (transferred from UNTSO)	90
Military police	14
Headquarters staff, including forward headquarters	39
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	1,191
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3. The Austrian battalion headquarters and the Polish engineer and transport elements are still in Kanakir near the Syrian town of Saassa, 40 kilometres south-west of Damascus. As already indicated, a different camp has been allotted to these two units, closer to the Austrian area of operations, but it has not yet been handed over to UNDOF by the Syrian army. It is expected that this will be done within a few weeks when certain engineering repair tasks, i.e. water, electricity, etc., have been completed by the Syrian authorities. The Peruvian battalion base camp and the Canadian logistics company and signal elements remain in Camp Bolivar, in Israeli-held territory, a few kilometres south of Quneitra. Some elements of UNDOF headquarters, i.e. civilian administration, logistics and personnel, are now located in part of another building in Damascus, relieving to some extent the congestion in the UNTSO building. It is intended eventually to relocate the remaining staff as soon as suitable accommodation can be acquired.

4. Following the completion of disengagement of forces on 25 June, the Austrian and Peruvian battalions and military observers of UNDOF completed the occupation of the checkpoints and observation posts within the area of separation and on the access roads in accordance with plans previously prepared. The Force and battalion operations staffs will review the locations of these posts and checkpoints in the coming weeks in the light of experience gained so that the most economical and efficient deployment of the Force available will be attained. A further factor which will affect that review will be the continued existence of uncleared minefields.

Minefields

5. The presence of large and uncleared minefields within the area of separation presents a continuing hazard to the troops. As previously reported on 25, 26 and 27 June, Syrian Army units conducted a mine-clearing operation within certain zones of the area of separation, under the supervision of UNDOF observers. The task is, however, far from complete, and negotiations are under way for another large-scale mine-clearing operation to be carried out by the Syrian Army in order to make the area safe both for UNDOF and for the civilian population. Since the completion of the first mine-clearing operation on 25, 26 and 27 June referred to above, parties of Syrian policemen and civilians have been carrying out mine clearing in the UNDOF area of separation.

Deployment and activities

6. During the period under review, UNDOF checkpoints and observation posts have denied access to the area of separation to all unauthorized forces. Several armed civilians have been apprehended within the area of separation by UNDOF troops. These persons were detained and handed over to the Syrian civilian police. UNDOF has facilitated Syrian body-recovery teams within the area of the Austrian battalion.

7. At the request of Israeli authorities, a special inspection of the Syrian area of limitation of armament and forces (10-kilometre zone) was carried out on 4 July. The regular inspections of the complete areas of limitation of armament and forces on both sides were carried out on 9 and 10 July. Both sides extended full co-operation to the UNDOF inspection teams. By arrangement with both parties, the inspection which would have taken place on 16 July was postponed for one week.

8. On 5 July, the Interim Force Commander convened a board consisting of a Chairman and three officers drawn from UNDOF to inquire into and report on the circumstances surrounding the mine accident on Mount Hermon on 25 June in which four soldiers of the Austrian battalion were killed and one was injured. The Board commenced its hearings on the same day and its work is proceeding.

9. The marking and checking of the B line is still proceeding. By arrangement with the Israeli authorities, this is being done in co-operation with the Syrian engineering team who cleared the area immediately in front of the survey party.

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Accommodation

10. Camps, checkpoints and observation posts being occupied by the troops within the area of separation will require a considerable amount of engineering work to make them habitable during the very severe Golan winter. All the buildings in Camp Bolivar are without roofs, and additional buildings will probably have to be provided in the new location for the Austrian and Polish units. Of equal, if not greater importance, is the provision of facilities at each of the checkpoints and observation posts where the troops will be on duty during the winter. Since much of the Golan is subject to extremely harsh weather in winter, including heavy rain and snow, the task of maintaining troops, especially on the slopes and on the summit of Mount Hermon, will be a formidable one. To assess the needs and estimate the cost of providing accommodation for the Force, surveys are now being carried out by members of the engineering staff.

11. In all operations of UNDOF both sides have co-operated fully. The situation remains calm.

Financial aspects

12. The costs of maintaining UNDOF for the period from its inception to 30 November 1974 are tentatively estimated at \$8 million. This takes into account the special requirements arising from the geographical and climatic conditions in the area of operations of UNDOF. For instance, it has been necessary to provide the Force with a number of specialized vehicles because of the difficult terrain. An added expense, not included in the above estimate, could arise, also because of the climatic conditions in the area, in connexion with the need to set up winter camps.

13. Pending General Assembly action on the financing of UNDOF, financial arrangements for the Force have been made through recourse to the \$60 million authorized by the General Assembly under its resolution 3101 (XXVIII). An amount of \$3.7 million has thus been made available to UNDOF for the purpose of meeting its operational cost through 24 October 1974. For the time being the cost of the military observers transferred from UNTSO is being borne by the UNTSO budget.

14. The Secretary-General will, of course, be making a full report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the financing of UNDOF.
