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

(for the period 23 November 1976 to 23 May 1977)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 23 November 1976 to 23 May 1977. Its purpose is to provide the Security Council with an account 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, 369 (1975) of 28 May 1975, 381 (1975) of 30 November 1975, 390 (1976) of 28 May 1976 and 398 (1976) of 30 November 1976.

2. During the period covered by the 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 23 May 1977 the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	522
Canada	164
Iran	388
Poland	88
United Nations military observers (detailed from UNTSO)	86
Total	<u>1,248</u>

4. Command of UNDOF continues to be exercised by Major-General Hannes Philipp. Lieutenant-General Siilasvuo has continued as Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East.

B. Deployment

5. UNDOF personnel remain deployed within or close to the area of separation, with base camps and logistic support units located nearby. UNDOF Headquarters is located in Damascus. The present deployment is shown on the attached map.

6. The Austrian battalion mans positions in the area of separation north of the Damascus-Quneitra road. Its base camp is located near the Wadi Faouar, 8 km east

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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, west of the area of separation.

7. The Austrian battalion continues to share its base camp with the Polish logistic unit, while the Iranian battalion shares its base camp with the Canadian logistic unit. The Canadian signals unit has detachments at the two base camps and in Damascus, Quneitra and Tiberias. Military police detachments are located in Camp Ziouani and Damascus. UNDOF also provides part of the staff serving in the Office of the Chief Co-ordinator in Jerusalem. The military observers (UNMOs) attached to the Force from UNTSO, operating out of Tiberias and Damascus, man the 11 observation posts located near the area of separation and in the vicinity of both the A and B lines. The UNMOs are responsible for observing and reporting violations of the Agreement, which may take the form of overflights, incursions, movement of military personnel within the area of separation and the crossing of either the A or B lines by unauthorized parties.

8. The completion of new accommodation and storage facilities at the Austrian battalion's position on the summit of Mount Hermon enabled UNDOF to man that position throughout the winter of 1976/77. Resupply of the position was made by snow-vehicle when weather conditions permitted.

C. Rotation

9. The Austrian battalion carried out partial rotations in November 1976 and in February 1977 and is carrying out another during May 1977. The Iranian battalion carried out a rotation in April 1977. The Polish unit carried out a full rotation in November 1976, and rotates again between 15 May and 15 June 1977. The Canadian logistics unit rotates on an ad hoc basis.

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II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

10. At present 27 projects involving major renovations to existing structures are under way. These projects are primarily operationally oriented, or are being carried out in an attempt to alleviate over-crowding in field positions. In addition, action to extend the life of existing prefabricated structures by the application of aluminium, steel or plastic siding is being studied in detail.

B. Logistic support

11. 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 provides a mine-clearing capability.

12. Air support is provided by the UNEF air transport unit, which operates two Buffalo DHC-5 aircraft out of Ismailia to Damascus. In addition, the Fokker F-27 aircraft provided by the Government of Switzerland for UNTSO is used by the three peace-keeping missions in the area.

13. Additionally, detailed planning has been completed for improved petroleum products storage and handling in Camp Faouar. Planned improvements will substantially reduce the present major fire hazards and fuel wastage, while also diminishing environmental pollution in the base camp area.

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III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

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

15. 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 or Syria, concerning the functions of the Force.

B. Freedom of movement

16. Despite the efforts made towards resolving the question of freedom of movement, the existing arrangements 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

17. On 20 April 1977, Major Ernst Pellegrini of Austria, Deputy Chief Operations Officer of UNDOF, was killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Firooz Ferdows of Iran, the Chief Operations Officer, was injured by the explosion of an anti-personnel mine a few metres west of Line A near UNDOF position 16A (see map). A board of inquiry appointed by the Force Commander to investigate this incident has submitted its report. Every effort is being made, in consultation with the parties, to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

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

D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

19. The cease-fire has been maintained during the period under review. There was one complaint by Syrian authorities regarding an incident in which seven civilians were captured and later released by members of the Israeli Defence Forces.

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

Area of separation

20. UNDOF continues to supervise the area of separation to ensure, in accordance with its mandate, that there are no military forces within it. This activity is carried out by means of static posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by foot and mobile patrols operating on both random and regulated patterns. Three new outposts along the A 1 line have been established.

21. 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 to the attention of the parties any violations it has itself observed, with a view to having corrective action taken. There have been no significant violations during the period under review.

22. Syrian shepherds who graze their flocks close to the A line continue to be a matter of concern to UNDOF, as are the number of Bedouin who move from the north to the south in the vicinity of the A line during the spring period. With the co-operation of both parties, however, incidents have been avoided.

23. Despite the efforts of the UNDOF mine-clearing team, it is suspected that there are still many unexploded shells and mines in the area of separation. The UNDOF mine-clearing team has further expanded the area accessible to foot and vehicle patrols, and by June 1977 there will be a cleared mine path running north-south from Mount Hermon to the Yarmouk Valley, enabling UNDOF to patrol the full length of both the A and B lines, as well as most of the tracks and paths within the area of separation. Outside the area of separation, in zones where UNDOF carries out its responsibility, the presence of mines, some of them newly planted, continues to be a danger on both sides. Mine explosions have resulted in the death of one UNDOF officer and injury to another (see para. 17), as well as casualties involving civilians and livestock.

24. UNDOF has continued to carry out its tasks 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.

25. During the reporting period, UNDOF has facilitated and continues to supervise meetings between families separated as a result of the hostilities. Until 1 May 1977, there had been 12 meetings, which normally take place on a fortnightly basis near the village of Majdel Shams. Additionally three special family meetings were held on 1 December and 29 December 1976 and on 10 April 1977. Both parties have co-operated fully with UNDOF in making these meetings possible.

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Areas of limitation

26. UNDOF has continued to carry out the inspection of the area 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 results 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 co-operation of the parties, although some restrictions of movement have been placed upon UNDOF teams during inspections in certain areas.

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IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

27. By its resolution 31/5 D of 22 December 1976, the General Assembly, inter alia, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force at a rate not to exceed \$1,359,583 per month for the period from 1 June to 24 October 1977 inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 398 (1976) of 30 November 1976. Accordingly, should the Security Council renew the UNDOF mandate beyond 31 May 1977, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNDOF up to 24 October 1977 will be within the level of the authorization to enter into commitments provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/5 D, assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities. Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session in respect of periods after 24 October 1977, if the period of extension determined by the Security Council goes beyond that date.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

28. In deciding, in its resolution 398 (1976), to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, 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 developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

29. Renewed efforts aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East as called for by Security Council resolution 338 (1973) have been undertaken since the adoption of Security Council resolution 398 (1976). At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/62 of 9 December 1976, calling for the early convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East. In early 1977 I undertook a visit to the Middle East in this connexion. The results of my contacts with the parties to the conflict and with the Co-Chairmen of the Peace Conference on the Middle East are described in the report which I submitted to the Security Council on 28 February 1977 (S/12290). I am maintaining contacts with the parties concerned and the Co-Chairmen with the view of giving effect to resolution 338 (1973).

VI. OBSERVATIONS

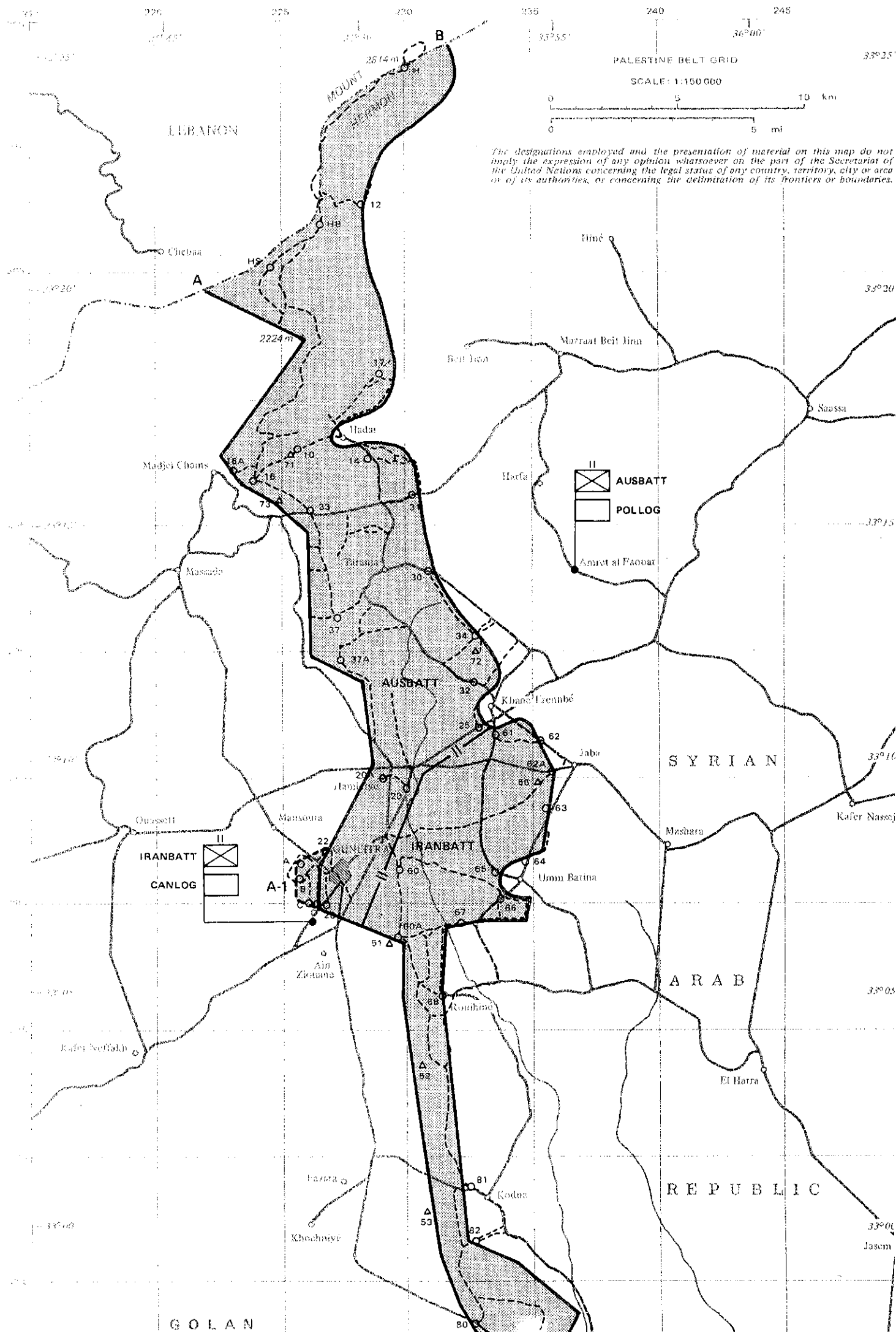
30. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces, has continued to perform its functions effectively with the co-operation of the parties. During the period under review, the situation in the area has remained quiet, and there have been no incidents of serious nature.

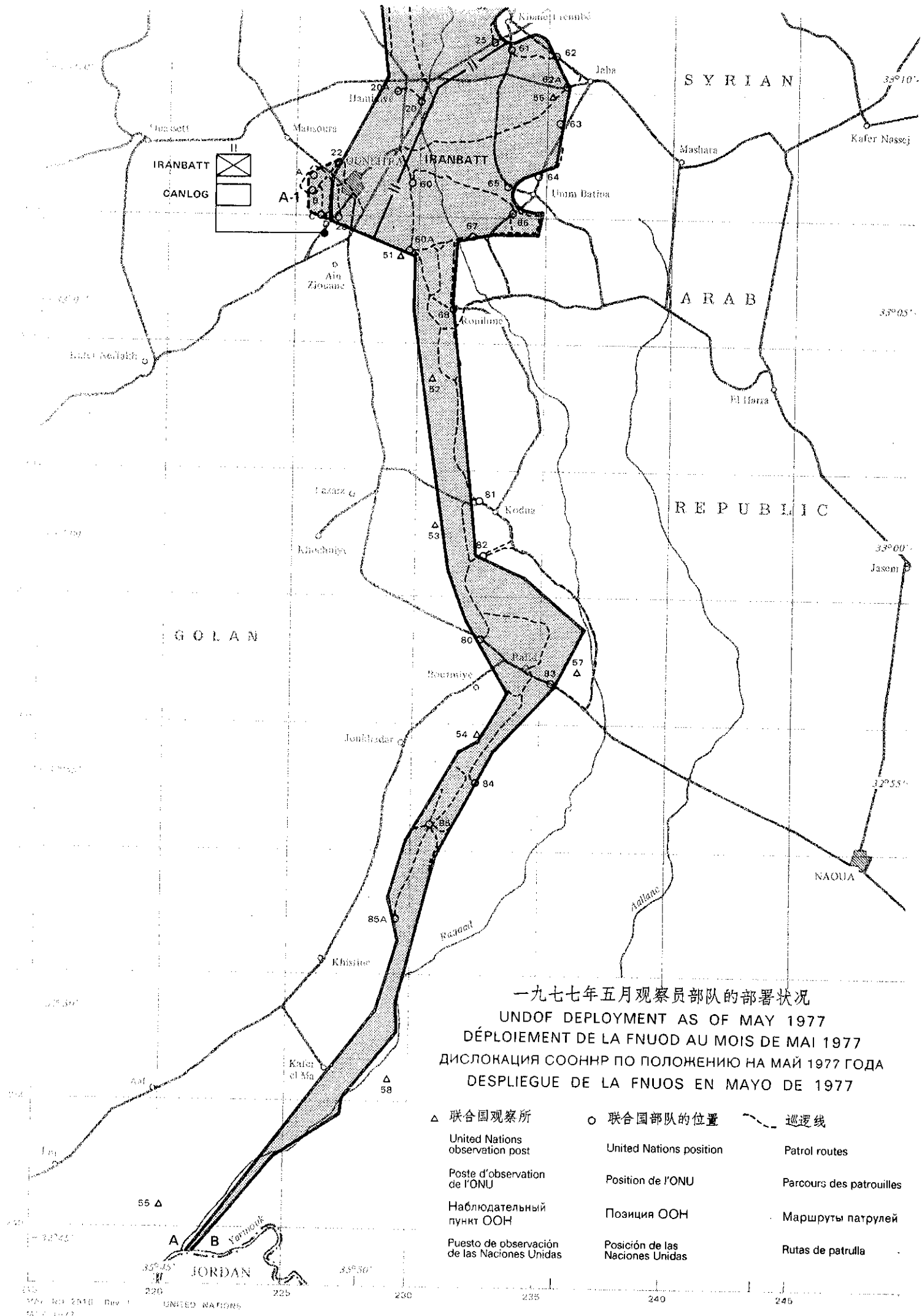
31. The present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector should not obscure the fact that the main elements of the Middle East problem remain unresolved and that the situation in the area will continue to be unstable and dangerous unless real progress can soon be made toward a just and durable settlement of the problem in all its aspects. As indicated earlier in this report, efforts at various levels are under way to further this goal. I must reiterate my belief that unless the opportunity is seized to resume as soon as possible negotiations in a meaningful way, there will be a growing and serious danger that the situation will deteriorate once again.

32. Taking into account all the factors involved, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months until 30 November 1977.

33. In concluding this report, I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those which provide UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force. I take this opportunity also to express my deep appreciation to the Commander of UNDOF, Major-General Hannes Philipp, to the officers and men of the Force and its civilian staff, as well as to the UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF. All of them have performed with exemplary efficiency and devotion to duty the important, difficult and sometimes dangerous tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. In this connexion, I wish to pay a special tribute to the memory of Major Ernst Pellegrini, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, who was recently killed in the performance of his duties. He was the latest among the brave and selfless soldiers who have given their lives in the service of the United Nations and in the cause of peace.

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一九七七年五月观察员部队的部署状况
 UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF MAY 1977
 DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE MAI 1977
 ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СОООНР ПО ПОЛОЖЕНИЮ НА МАЙ 1977 ГОДА
 DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN MAYO DE 1977

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|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| △ 联合国观察所 | ○ 联合国部队的位置 | --- 巡逻线 |
| United Nations observation post | United Nations position | Patrol routes |
| Poste d'observation de l'ONU | Position de l'ONU | Parcours des patrouilles |
| Наблюдательный пункт ООН | Позиция ООН | Маршруты патрулей |
| Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas | Posición de las Naciones Unidas | Rutas de patrulla |

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