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

(for the period 26 May 1977 to 23 November 1977)

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MAP: UNDOF DEPLOYMENT SITUATION AS OF NOVEMBER 1977

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 26 May to 23 November 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, 398 (1976) of 30 November 1976 and 408 (1977) of 26 May 1977.

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 November 1977 the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	521
Canada	164
Iran	390
Poland	91
United Nations military observers (detailed from UNTSO)	83
	<hr/> 1,249 <hr/>

The normal strength is between 1,248 and 1,255. In times of rotation the strength rises to 1,255, owing to the overlapping of advance and rear parties.

4. Command of UNDOF continues to be exercised by Major-General Hannes Philipp. Lieutenant-General Ensio 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 UNDOF deployment is shown on the attached map.

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6. The Austrian battalion mans 18 positions and 7 outposts and mounts 19 daily patrols in the area of separation north of the Damascus-Quneitra road. Its base camp is located near the Wadi Faouar, 8 km east of the area of separation. The Iranian battalion mans 15 positions and 3 outposts and mounts 20 daily patrols in the area of separation south of the Damascus-Quneitra road. Its base camp is 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, as well as in Damascus, Quneitra and Tiberias. Military police detachments are located in Camp Ziouani (Iranian battalion base camp) and Damascus. UNDOF also provides part of the staff serving in the Office of the Chief Co-ordinator in Jerusalem. The United Nations 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 firing and overflights across the cease-fire lines, movement of military personnel other than UNDOF within the area of separation and the crossing of either the A or B line by unauthorized parties.

C. Rotation

8. The Austrian battalion carried out partial rotations in May and August 1977 and is carrying out another during November 1977. The Iranian battalion carried out a full rotation from 13 to 19 October. The Polish unit carried out a full rotation in May 1977 and rotates again between 15 November and December 1977. The Canadian logistic unit rotates in small groups.

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

9. Emphasis was placed during the reporting period on improving existing facilities and accommodation. Additional office space was rented in Damascus to relieve serious overcrowding in the UNDOF headquarters building. Negotiations for the rental of garage space to enable UNDOF to carry out all of its own vehicle-maintenance programmes were continued and are expected to be finalized shortly.

10. A number of projects were completed at the two base camps of the battalions. Among those projects were the construction of shelters, the renovation of a building to provide space for repair of refrigerators and the construction of buildings for the storage of automotive parts and construction material. A contract was also signed for the provision of electric power to Camp Ziouani. Work on this project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

11. A number of projects to improve the prefabricated buildings at UNDOF positions were completed on a self-help basis. Included was the reconstruction of a building

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at position 83 which had been destroyed by fire. Work is continuing in an effort to improve conditions at all positions.

B. Logistic support

12. Logistic support for the Force 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 two mine-clearing teams.

13. Both the Canadian and Polish logistic units, which are responsible for the provision of the Force's second-line transport, have delivered water, petrol, rations, stores and mail to the base camps and the positions, in addition to ensuring the repair and maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

14. The Canadian logistic unit has improved its rations and stores holdings and now maintains reasonable reserves of fresh meat, dry rations, composite rations, spare parts and general stores. Also a third-line stock level is held in the United Nations Emergency Force supply company in Ismailia, which is responsible for UNDOF third-line support.

15. The Polish mine-clearing teams have cleared 14,500 metres of patrol paths, 2,200 metres of roads and trails, as well as 4,900 square metres of ground in positions. Mines, shells and small-arms ammunition have been destroyed.

16. Air support continues to be provided by the UNEF-controlled air transport unit which operates two Buffalo DHC-5 out of Ismailia to Damascus twice a week on a regular basis and special flights as required. In addition, the Fokker F-27 aircraft provided by the Government of Switzerland for UNTSO is used by UNDOF and the other two peace-keeping missions in the area as needed.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

17. 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).

18. 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 the Syrian Arab Republic. 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 the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the functions of the Force.

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B. Freedom of movement

19. The existing arrangements still fall short of what is required and of what is provided for in the Protocol to the Agreement on Disengagement, since restrictions on the freedom of movement still exist. However, limited progress has been made on this matter, particularly with regard to the freedom of movement during inspections in the areas of limitations of armaments and forces (see para. 27 below). Efforts to achieve full freedom of movement for personnel of all the contingents of UNDOF are being pursued.

C. Personnel matters

20. The general discipline, performance and bearing of all members of UNDOF continues to be of a high order, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents to the Force. As indicated in paragraph 21 below, two members of the Iranian contingent were wounded while on duty during the period under review.

D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

21. UNDOF continues to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic which has been maintained during the period under review. No complaints have been raised by either party in this regard. There was, however, one serious shooting incident along the A line. On 16 November 1977, two members of the Iranian battalion, while on patrol duty inside the area of separation, came under fire from the Israeli side of the A line. Both men were wounded. A strong protest was lodged with the Israeli authorities.

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

22. 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 foot and mobile patrols operating on both random and predetermined patterns. Four new outposts along the A-1 line were established in May 1977 and have helped to reduce violations.

23. Syrian shepherds, grazing their flocks close to and west of the A line, continue to be a problem for UNDOF. A mine-cleared patrol path along the A line extending from Mount Hermon to the Syrian-Jordanian border is almost completed. This will facilitate the task of the UNDOF battalions in controlling and preventing crossings of the A line by civilians.

24. A shelter improvement programme has been carried out in the Austrian battalion area of responsibility and will be continued in the Iranian battalion area with a view to ensuring a maximum of protection for UNDOF troops in the area of separation.

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25. UNDOF has continued to facilitate and to supervise the fortnightly meetings of Druse families living on both sides of the A line. Thirty family meetings have been held during the period under review and both parties have shown good co-operation in making these meetings possible.

26. Mines within the area of separation continue to cause a hazard to members of UNDOF and to the civilian population. During the period under review, six children were victims of mine explosions.

27. UNDOF has continued to carry out regular bi-weekly inspections provided for in the Disengagement Agreement. In addition, special inspections have been carried out upon the request of either party. The inspections are conducted 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 limitations of armaments and forces. In carrying out this function, UNDOF has continued to receive the co-operation of the parties, although restrictions of movement are sometimes placed upon UNDOF teams during inspections in certain areas on both sides. A newly established system of follow-up patrols has been successful in lifting most of these restrictions in the 10- and 20-kilometre zones.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

28. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report of 11 November 1977 to the General Assembly (A/32/339, para. 27) on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the costs of UNDOF beyond 30 November 1977, should the Security Council renew its mandate beyond that date and assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities, would be of the order of \$1.4 million per month based on the present rates of reimbursement to troop contributing countries. Should the General Assembly approve the new rates of reimbursement which are recommended in the above-mentioned report (A/32/339, para. 21), the cost of UNDOF beyond 30 November would be of the order of \$1.7 million per month.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

29. 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).

30. As indicated in my report on the United Nations Emergency Force of 17 October 1977 (S/12416), intensive efforts have been made during the past year to promote an early resumption of the negotiating process aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East as called for in Security Council resolution 338 (1973). These efforts are being pursued. For my part, I have continued to keep in touch with the parties concerned and the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East.

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VI. OBSERVATIONS

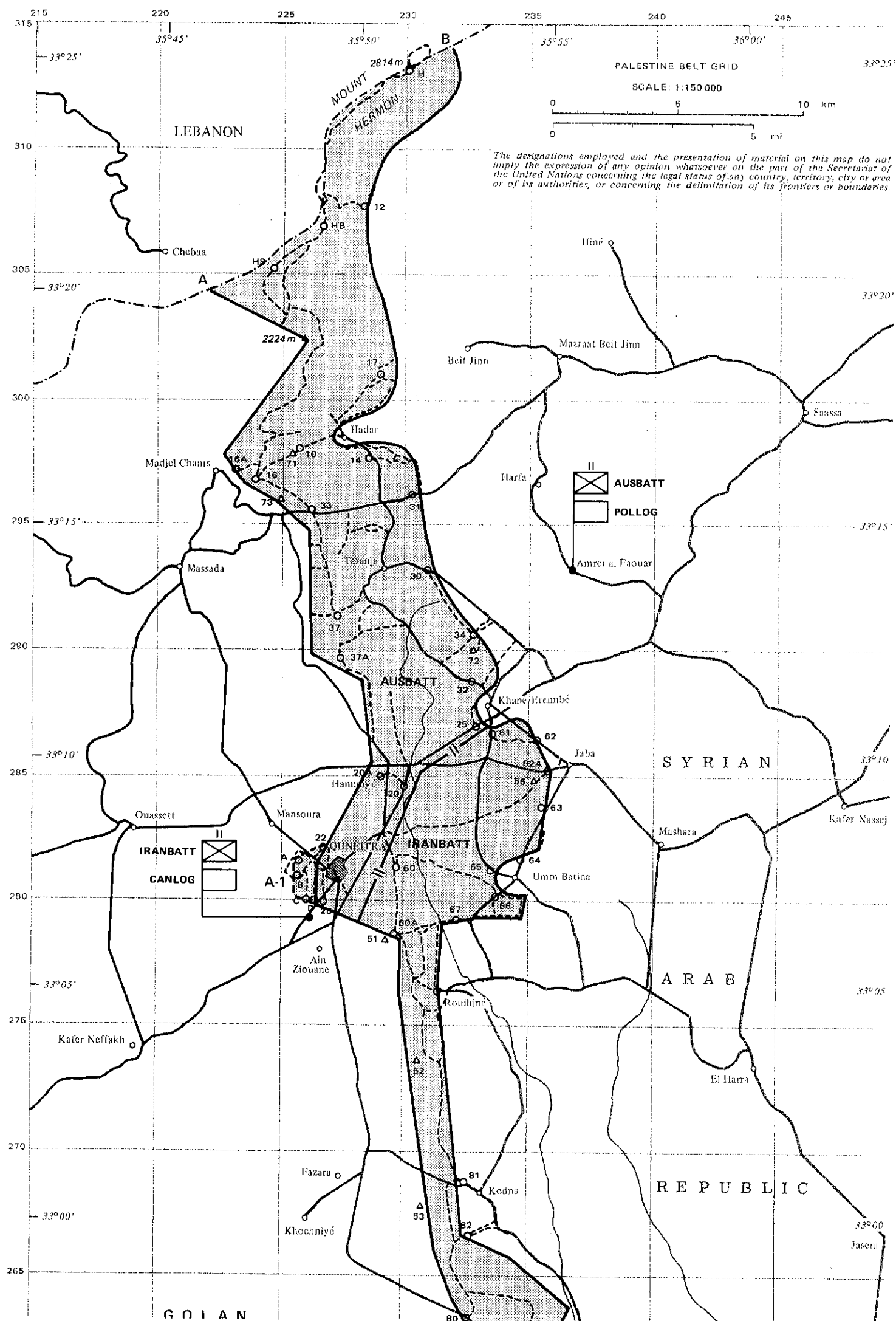
31. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the parties. Except for the incident mentioned in paragraph 21 of this report, the situation in the area has remained quiet during the period under review.

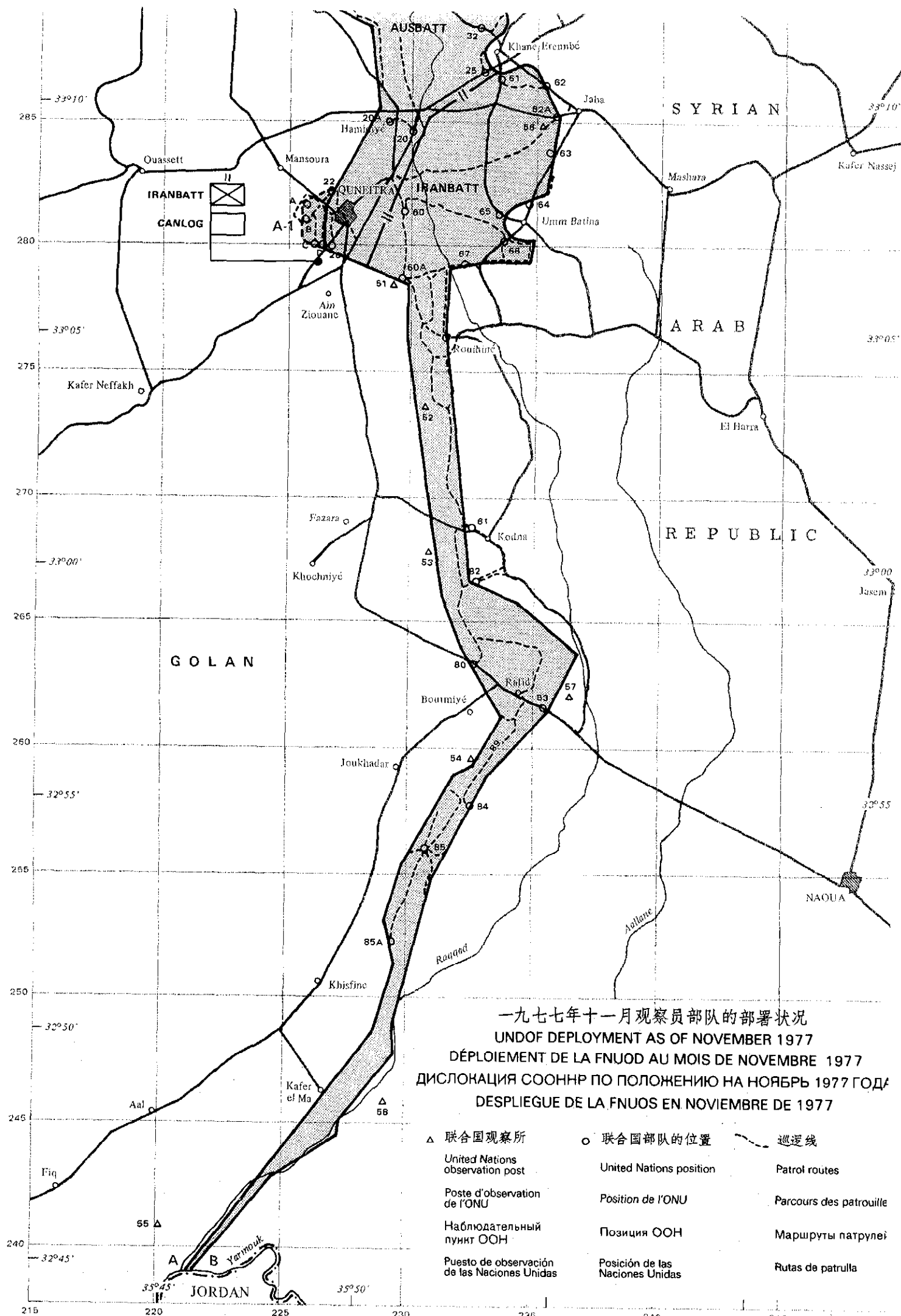
32. The present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector should not obscure the fact that the main elements of the Middle East problem remain unresolved and that the situation in the area will continue to be unstable and dangerous unless real progress can soon be made towards a just and durable settlement of the problem in all its aspects. As indicated earlier in this report, intensive efforts at various levels are being continued in pursuit of this goal. I hope that these efforts will contribute to an early resumption of the Geneva Peace Conference as a first step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem. Failing such a development, there will, I fear, be a growing and serious danger that the situation will deteriorate once again.

33. In the prevailing circumstances, 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 31 May 1978.

34. 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 pay tribute 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.

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一九七七年十一月观察员部队的部署状况
 UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 1977
 DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE NOVEMBRE 1977
 ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО ПОЛОЖЕНИЮ НА НОЯБРЬ 1977 ГОДА
 DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN NOVEMBRE 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 patrouille |
| Наблюдательный пункт ООН | Позиция ООН | Маршруты патрулей |
| Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas | Posición de las Naciones Unidas | Rutas de patrulla |