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

(for the period 24 Movember 1979 to 23 May 1980)

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#### INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 24 November 1979 to 23 May 1980. 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 23 May 1975, 381 (1975) of 30 November 1975, 390 (1976) of 28 May 1976, 398 (1976) of 30 November 1976, 408 (1977) of 26 May 1977, 420 (1977) of 30 November 1977, 429 (1978) of 31 May 1978, 441 (1978) of 30 November 1978, 449 (1979) of 30 May 1979 and 456 (1979) of 30 November 1979.

#### I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

#### A. Composition and command

2. The composition of UNDOF as of 23 May 1980 was as follows:

#### Contingents:

Austria		532
Canada		220
Finland		388
Poland		129
United Hations military observers (detailed from UNTSO)		20
(woodilow lion omigo)		
	Total	1,289

In addition to the above, observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assigned to the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission assist UNDOF as the occasion requires.

- 3. The UNDOF establishment was reviewed during the period. The Force strength fluctuated, particularly during times of rotation periods.
- 4. Command of the Force is exercised by Major-General Guenther Greindl who was appointed Force Commander on 1 December 1979, after having served as Officer-in-charge since April 1979.

# B. Deployment

5. UNDOF personnel remain deployed within and close to the area of separation, with base camps and logistic units located nearby. UNDOF headquarters is located in Damascus. The UNDOF deployment as of May 1980 is shown on the attached map.

- 6. At present, the Austrian battalion mans 18 positions and 9 outposts, and conducts 23 patrols daily in the area of separation north and inclusive of the Damascus-Quneitra road. The Finnish battalion mans 15 positions and 4 outposts, and conducts 30 patrols daily in the area of separation south of the Damascus-Quneitra road.
- 7. The Austrian battalion base camp is located near the Wadi Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Finnish battalion base camp is located near the village of Ziouani, west of the area of separation. The Austrian battalion continues to share its base camp with the Polish logistic unit, and the Finnish battalion shares Camp Ziouani with the Canadian logistic company. The Canadian signals unit has detachments at Camps Ziouani and Faouar, as well as at Damascus and Quneitra.

#### C. Rotation

8. The Austrian contingent completed partial rotations on 6 and 14 December 1979, and on 26 February and 6 March 1980. The Finnish contingent completed a partial rotation 2 December 1979. The Polish logistic unit carried out a rotation on 4 and 11 December 1979. The Canadian logistic and signal units rotate in small groups every second week.

#### II. ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

#### A. Accommodation

- 9. Living accommodation continues to be expanded and improved in keeping with United Nations standards, both in the positions and in the main camps.
- 10. The installation of electrical and plumbing fittings for the forward UNDOF command headquarters in Quneitra and the medical care shelter in Camp Faouar is in progress.
- 11. In Camp Ziouani, surveys have been completed for sewerage and water and electrical power distribution systems. The improvement of the sewerage system has commenced.

#### B. Logistic support

12. Logistic support to the Force continues to be provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units, but with expanded responsibilities resulting from the close-out of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNLF). Adjustments to logistic support levels have been made to accommodate these increased responsibilities. These units provide second-line transport, including delivery of water, petrol, rations, mail and miscellaneous cargo, in addition to equipment maintenance and vehicle repair. During the period under review Damascus was designated the UNDOF air head, and all rotation and supply flights for UNDOF have been utilizing the Damascus international airport. In-theatre air support is being provided by UNTSO, with two to three scheduled flights each month and additional flights upon special request.

13. Mines continue to pose a threat to members of the Force and to the local population and were the cause of two minor accidents. Efforts continue to make the area safe. During the period, the Polish mine-clearing teams were increased from two to three. Since November 1979, these teams have cleared 26,898 metres of patrol paths and tracks, 5,500 square metres for living area at bases in the area of limitation and 32,398 square metres near UNDOF positions in the area of separation. In the process 24 mines, 5 mortar shells and 4 other explosives were destroyed.

#### 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 continued, with the co-operation of the parties, to fulfil 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.

### B. Freedom of movement

16. The Protocol of the Agreement on Disengagement provides for all contingents to operate with full freedom of movement. However, the problem of restrictions on the freedom of movement still exists, although some progress has been achieved as a result of efforts made both locally and at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General will continue to exert all possible efforts to correct this situation.

#### C. Maintenance of the cease-fire

17. UNDOF continues to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The cease-fire has been maintained during the period under review. No complaints concerning the UNDOF area of operation have been lodged by either party in this respect.

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

18. UNDOF continues to supervise the area of separation to ensure, in accordance with its mandate, that there are no military forces within it. This is carried out by means of static positions and observation posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by foot and mobile patrols operating at irregular intervals on predetermined routes. In addition, temporary outposts have been established from time to time to perform specific tasks, such as traffic control. The ability of UNDOF to supervise the agreement by night has been extended by the introduction of night vehicle patrols and the further acquisition of night observation devices.

- 19. The safety of Syrian shepherds who graze their flocks close to and west of the A line continues to be of concern to UNDOF. The establishment of new mine-cleared patrol paths and, from time to time, of standing patrols in these areas, has helped to prevent incidents. In addition, a grazing security fence has been erected for some 5,500 metres in the southern part of the area of separation and is so far proving effective in reducing the number of incidents.
- 20. UNDOF has continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for family reunions and student exchanges. Both parties continue to co-operate with UNDOF in making the family meetings possible in accordance with the agreed procedures.
- 21. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement on Disengagement, UNDOF continues to conduct fortnightly inspections of the areas of limitation in armament and forces. These inspections are carried out with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties, who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams. UNDOF also lends its assistance and good offices on request from one of the parties. In carrying out its tasks, UNDOF has continued to receive the co-operation of both parties, although restrictions of movements and inspection are sometimes placed on UNDOF teams during inspections in certain areas on both sides of the area of inspection. UNDOF has sought the lifting of these restrictions so as to guarantee its freedom of access to all locations on both sides.

#### IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

22. By its resolution 34/7 C of 3 December 1979, the General Assembly, among other things, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force at a rate not to exceed \$2,096,333 gross (\$2,077,000 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1980, inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 456 (1979) of 30 November 1979. Accordingly, should the Security Council renew the UNDOF mandate beyond 31 May 1980, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNDOF up to 30 November 1980 will be within the commitment authority provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/7 C, assuming continuance of the Force's existing strength and responsibilities. Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session in respect of periods after 30 November 1980, if the period of extension determined by the Security Council goes beyond that date.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

23. In deciding in its resolution 456 (1979) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon all the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit at the end of the period a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

24. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973) have been dealt with in the comprehensive report on the Middle East problem (A/34/584-S/13578) which the Secretary-General submitted on 24 October 1979 in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/29. On 6 December 1979, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/70 on the situation on the Middle East. The Secretary-General has continued to maintain contact on this matter with the parties and interested Governments.

#### VI. OBSERVATIONS

- 25. 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 of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the parties. During the period under review, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet, and there have been no serious incidents.
- 26. Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I continue to hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).
- 27. 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 30 November 1980. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.
- 28. In concluding the present report, I wish, once again, to express 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 to pay tribute to the Commander of UNDOF, Major-General Guenther Greindl, to the officers and men of the Force and its civilian staff, as well as to the UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF. They have performed with exemplary efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

