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LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1980 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations peace-keeping operations established by the Security Council in the Middle East and Cyprus. I have recently undertaken a careful review of the commands of the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and Cyprus in the light of the availability of the required personnel and, of course, giving due consideration to the effectiveness of those operations. As a result of this review it is my intention, subject to the usual consultations and to the extension by the Security Council of the respective mandates, to make the following changes:

(a) Major-General Gunther Greindl, of Austria, who is serving as Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), would replace Major-General James J. Quinn as Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). General Quinn will return to Ireland after more than four years of distinguished service with the United Nations. General Greindl should arrive in Cyprus at the end of February 1981 to allow for a sufficient period of overlap for the smooth transfer of responsibilities. He is familiar with the operations of UNFICYP, having served as Chief Operations Officer of that Force in 1977/78;

(b) Major-General Erkki R. Kaira, of Finland, the present Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), would replace General Greindl as Commander of UNDOF. General Kaira is familiar with the operations of UNDOF since a number of UNTSO observers are assigned to that Force in accordance with a decision of the Security Council. General Kaira should arrive in Damascus by 20 February 1981;

(c) Major-General Emmanuel A. Erskine, of Ghana, who served as Chief of Staff of UNTSO from January 1976 until March 1978 and has been Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since that time, would be reassigned to his former post as Chief of Staff of UNTSO with the additional function of representing the Secretary-General for matters relating to United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Middle East. He should arrive in Jerusalem by 15 February 1981;

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(d) Major-General William Callaghan, now Adjutant-General of the Irish Defense Forces, would replace General Erskine as Commander of UNIFIL. Major-General Callaghan served as Senior Staff Officer of UNTSO from November 1976 until March 1978 and as its acting Chief of Staff from that time until January 1979 and knows well the situation in the Middle East and the operations of UNIFIL. The Government of Ireland has informed me that it is willing to make Major-General Callaghan available for a further tour of duty with the United Nations peace-keeping operations. He should arrive in Nagoura by 5 February 1981.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM
