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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED
NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE
(for the period 18 May 1978 to 24 November 1978)

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MAP: UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 1978

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 18 May 1978 to 24 November 1978. 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, 408 (1977) of 26 May 1977, 420 (1977) of 30 November 1977 and 429 (1978) of 31 May 1978.

2. During the period covered by the report, UNDOF continued to supervise the area of separation and to inspect the areas of limitation in armaments and forces, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974 and the Protocol thereto. With the co-operation of both parties, the Force was able to contribute to the maintenance of the cease-fire called for by the Security Council in resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

3. The composition of UNDOF as of 24 November 1978 was as follows:

Austria	535
Canada	169
Iran	390
Poland	101
United Nations military observers (detailed from UNTSO)	88
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	1,283

The average strength of UNDOF is about 1,250, all ranks. The present temporary over-strength is due to the fact that rotations involving all four contingents are now under way.

4. Command of UNDOF continues to be exercised by Major-General Hannes Philipp. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo continues as the Chief Co-ordinator of 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

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located in Damascus. The UNDOF deployment as of November 1978 is shown on the attached map.

6. Until 15 June 1978, the Austrian battalion manned 27 positions, 8 outposts and mounted 25 daily patrols in the area of separation, and the Iranian battalion manned 6 positions, 1 outpost and mounted 12 daily patrols in the southern sector of the area of separation.

7. Since the return of the Iranian company from UNIFIL to UNDOF on 15 June 1978, the Austrian battalion mans 18 positions, 7 outposts and mounts 19 daily patrols in the area of separation north of the Damascus-Quneitra road, and the Iranian battalion mans 15 positions, 3 outposts and mounts 20 daily patrols in the area of separation south of that road.

8. The Austrian base camp is located near the Wadi Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Iranian base camp is near the village of Ziouani, west of the area of separation. The Austrian battalion to share its base camp with the Polish logistic unit, and the Iranian battalion continues to share 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.

C. Rotation

9. The Austrian battalion carried out a partial rotation from 22 to 30 August 1978; a further partial rotation of the battalion, which began on 20 November, is under way. A full rotation of the Iranian battalion began on 30 October 1978 and is near completion. The Canadian logistic unit rotates in small groups; a partial rotation is in progress. The Polish logistic unit carried out a full rotation in May-June 1978; a further full rotation of the unit began on 15 November and is under way.

II. ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodation

10. Within the period under review, construction of shelters in Camp Faouar (Austrian-Polish base) and Camp Ziouani (Iranian-Canadian base) has been completed, except for some minor works. The forward UNDOF command headquarters in Quneitra is under construction and will be completed in the near future, as will contractual work to establish a petrol, oil and lubricants station in Camp Faouar and extended repair facilities in Camp Ziouani. Electric power has now been provided for Camp Ziouani. Electric power for Camp Faouar awaits the completion of a transformer building currently under construction.

11. In addition to minor ongoing renovation and winterization projects, work is under way to improve and extend living accommodations at positions within the area of separation. Six Austrian battalion positions have been completed and construction is continuing in the remaining positions. In Camp Ziouani,

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preliminary work has been completed on a new medical inspection room, as well as new hygienic facilities for the Iranian battalion, utilizing prefabricated structures.

12. Position 81 and one building at Position 80 (see map) were completely destroyed by fire. The preliminary work for the reconstruction of Position 81 has been completed. The building at Position 80, currently being rebuilt by Iranian personnel, is nearing completion.

B. Logistic support

13. Logistic support to 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). Air support to UNDOF continues to be provided by the UNEF-controlled Canadian air transport unit, which operates two Buffalo DHC-5 flights out of Ismailia to Tel Aviv and Damascus on a regular basis, with special flights as required.

14. The Canadian and Polish units have continued to provide second-line transport, including delivery of water, petrol, rations, matériel and mail, as well as equipment maintenance and vehicle repair.

15. During the period under review, the Polish mine-clearing teams have cleared 18,200 metres of patrol paths and 1,250 metres of roads and trails, as well as 18,275 square metres of ground at positions within the area of separation. In this process, 27 anti-personnel mines, 41 anti-tank mines and 18 artillery projectiles were destroyed. With the arrival of a heavy Polish bulldozer, road improvements have commenced within the area of separation.

16. To achieve greater efficiency in logistic support, warehousing and storage facilities have been improved during the period under review. Together with revised arrangements for third-line supplies and services from UNEF, this will result in improved matériel management and speedier response to meet the needs of the Force.

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 my report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 8-10).

18. 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. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo, Chief Co-ordinator of United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East, continues his functions in connexion with UNDOF and, as occasion requires, meets

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with the Force Commander and military representatives of Israel or the Syrian Arab Republic.

B. Freedom of movement

19. The Protocol of the Agreement on Disengagement provides for all contingents to operate with full freedom of movement. However, restrictions on the freedom of movement still exist, and efforts to correct the situation are being pursued.

C. Personnel matters

20. The general discipline, conduct and bearing of all members of UNDOF continue to be of a high order and to reflect credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents.

21. During the period under review, four Austrian soldiers and one Polish soldier died as a result of accidents or other causes.

D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

22. 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 referring to the UNDOF area of operations have been raised by either party in this regard.

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

23. 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 random intervals on predetermined routes. The return deployment of the Iranian company from UNIFIL to UNDOF area of operations on 15 June 1978 has brought the Force back to its normal operational strength.

24. 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 major incidents.

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

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26. The existence of mines within the area of separation continues to cause danger to members of UNDOF, as well as to the civilian population. During the period under review, several civilians have been seriously injured or killed by mine explosions.

27. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement on Disengagement, UNDOF continues to conduct bi-weekly inspections of the areas of limitation in armament and forces. The inspections are conducted with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties, who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams to their respective areas. UNDOF lends its assistance and good offices in cases where one of the parties raises questions concerning the observance of the agreed limitations of armament and forces. In carrying out these functions, 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 of the area of separation. Efforts are being pursued by UNDOF to lift those restrictions of movement and guarantee freedom of access to all locations on both sides.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

28. As indicated in my report of 15 November 1978 to the General Assembly (A/33/373, para. 16) on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the costs of UNDOF beyond 30 November 1978, should the Security Council renew its mandate beyond that date, would be of the order of \$1.7 million per month, assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

29. In deciding in its resolution 429 (1978) 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 extended period a report on the developments in the situation and the steps taken to implement that resolution.

30. 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/33/311, S/12896) which the Secretary-General has submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/20 of 25 November 1977.

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 of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the

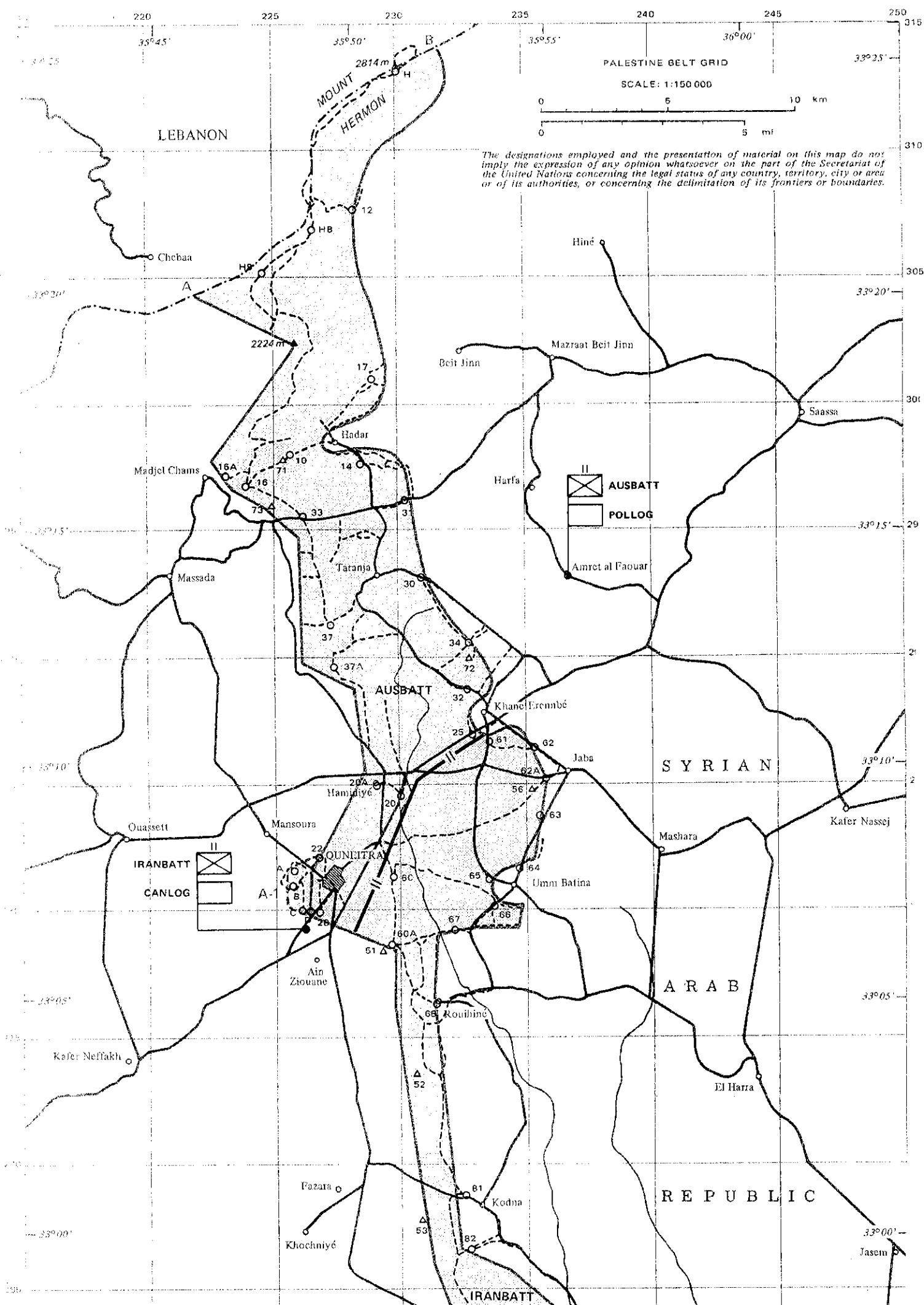
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parties. During the period under review, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet, and there have been no incidents of a serious nature.

32. 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).

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 1979. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

34. In concluding this 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 also to pay tribute to the Commander of UNDOF, Major-General Hannes Philipp, to the Chief of Staff, Colonel M. Ahmadi, who was Acting Force Commander during General Philipp's temporary absence on the United Nations Survey Mission to Namibia, 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 and difficult tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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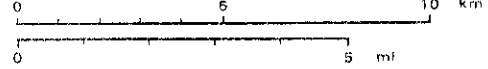
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