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

(for the period 30 November 1977 to 17 May 1978)

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MAP: UNDOF DEPLOYMENT SITUATION AS OF MAY 1978

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 30 November 1977 to 17 May 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 and 420 (1977) of 30 November 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 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 17 May 1978 is as follows:

Austria	523
Canada	161
Iran <u>1/</u>	385
Poland	91
United Nations Military Observers (detailed from UNTSO)	85
	<hr/>
	1,245

The normal strength is between 1,244 and 1,262. During rotation periods the strength rises to approximately 1,262, due to the requirement to overlap key personnel for the handover of duties.

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

1/ On 22 March 1978, a reinforced company of 199 men of IRANBATT was temporarily detached for service with UNIFIL.

B. Deployment

5. The deployment of a reinforced Iranian company (strength 199 soldiers) to UNIFIL on 22 March 1978 has placed a strain on the operational capacity of UNDOF.

6. 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 UNDOF deployment as of May 1978 is shown on the attached map.

7. Until 21 March 1978 the Austrian battalion manned 18 positions, 7 outposts and mounted 19 daily patrols in the area of separation north of the Damascus-Quneitra road and the Iranian battalion manned 15 positions, 3 outposts and mounted 20 daily patrols in the area of separation south of that road.

8. Following the temporary transfer of an Iranian company to UNIFIL on 22 March 1978, the Austrian battalion took over nine positions previously assigned to the Iranian battalion. The Austrian battalion now mans 27 positions, 8 outposts and mounts 25 daily patrols in the area of separation and the Iranian battalion mans 6 positions, 1 outpost and mounts 12 daily patrols in the southern sector of the area of separation.

9. The Austrian base camp is located near the Wadi Faouar, eight 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 continues to share their base camp with the Polish logistics unit, while the Iranian battalion continues to share their base camp with the Canadian logistics unit. The Canadian signals unit has detachments at the two base camps, as well as in Damascus, Quneitra and Tiberias.

C. Rotation

10. The Austrian battalion carried out a partial rotation in February 1978. The Iranian battalion carried out a full rotation starting from 28 April 1978. The Canadian logistics unit rotates in small groups. The Polish logistics unit will carry out a full rotation in May 1978.

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II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

11. Two apartments have been rented in Damascus to relocate the junior ranks in order to relieve serious overcrowding in the UNDOF headquarters building and Athena Villa and to improve living conditions of the troops. A garage was also rented in the Damascus area to carry out all vehicle maintenance programmes.

12. Several minor renovation projects were completed in both camps, but emphasis was placed in the construction of shelters in Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani. All preliminary works have been completed for the provision of electric power to Camp Ziouani. A contract will be signed shortly for the provision of electric power to Camp Faouar.

13. A sentry block in position 12 was completely destroyed by fire. It has now been rebuilt. The Iranian medical inspection building in Camp Ziouani was also destroyed by fire and will be reconstructed in the near future. Progress in the renovation of position buildings in the Golan was reduced by severe weather, heavy rains and snow during the fall and winter, but work is now continuing in an effort to improve conditions at all positions.

B. Logistic support

14. Logistic support to the Force continues to be provided by Canadian and Polish logistics units, as outlined in my report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 25-27). The Polish unit continues to provide two mine-clearing teams.

15. As in the past, both the Canadian and Polish logistics units, which are responsible for the provision of the Force's second line transport, have delivered water, petrol, rations, stores and mail to the main camps and the positions, in addition to ensuring the maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment.

16. Holdings and reserve of stores and rations have been improved. New financial arrangements have been set up with UNEF for the provision of third line supplies and services from UNEF.

17. Within the period under review, the Polish mine-clearing teams have cleared 5.191 metres of patrol paths, 3.191 metres of road and trails, as well as 36.132 square metres of ground in positions. With the acquisition of a new Polish bulldozer, it is intended to enlarge patrol paths between positions to allow more mobile patrols by vehicles and to build a patrol road parallel to the A line.

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

19. Initial logistic support was provided to UNIFIL by units of UNDOF within their limited human and material resources.

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III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

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

21. 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. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo, Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East, continues to maintain high-level contacts and, as occasion requires, meets with the Force Commander of UNDOF and military representatives of Israel or the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the functions of the Force.

B. Freedom of movement

22. 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. Efforts to achieve full freedom of movement for personnel of all contingents of UNDOF are being pursued.

C. Personnel matters

23. 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.

D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

24. UNDOF continues to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The cease-fire has been maintained during this reporting period. 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

25. UNDOF, in accordance with its mandate, continues to ensure, that there are no military forces within the area of separation. Observation and surveillance of the area of separation is carried out by means of static posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by foot and mobile patrols operating at random intervals on predetermined routes. Because of the temporary assignment of a reinforced Iranian company with UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, UNDOF has redeployed the Austrian forces

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to provide complete coverage of the area of separation. In addition to the positions normally assigned, the Austrian battalion was tasked to man the nine positions vacated by the Iranian battalion.

26. Patrolling along the area of the A line remained at a normal level, but patrolling along the B line has been reduced in keeping with the reduced personnel strength of B line positions. However, United Nations Military Observer patrols in the 10 km zone were increased on the B side in order to observe and report any prohibited activity or movement in that area.

27. Syrian shepherds, grazing their flocks close to and west of the A line, continue to be a problem for UNDOF. Thanks to the co-operation extended to UNDOF by both parties, it has been possible to avoid major incidents: however, as a result of the decreased operational strength of UNDOF, there has been an increase in violations by shepherds since 22 March 1978.

28. A shelter improvement programme continues in the Iranian battalion area of responsibility to ensure maximum of protection for UNDOF troops in the area of separation.

29. 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.

30. 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 reporting period several civilians have been seriously injured or killed by mine explosions.

31. UNDOF has continued to carry out the bi-weekly inspections provided for in the Agreement on Disengagement. In addition, special inspections have been carried out upon the request of both parties. 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 armaments 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. The system of follow-up inspections has been successful in overcoming most restrictions in the 10 and 20 km zones.

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IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

32. By its resolution 32/4 C of 2 December 1977, 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 \$1,607,000 per month for the period from 1 June to 24 October 1978 inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 420 (1977) of 30 November 1977. Accordingly, should the Security Council renew the UNDOF mandate beyond 31 May 1978, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNDOF up to 24 October 1978 will be within the level of the authorization to enter into commitments provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/4 C, assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities. Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session in respect of periods after 24 October 1978, if the period of extension determined by the Security Council goes beyond that date.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

33. In deciding in its resolution 420 (1977) 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).

34. Efforts to promote an early resumption of the negotiating process aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East have continued at various levels. For my part I have maintained contact with the parties concerned and with the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference in the Middle East in this regard.

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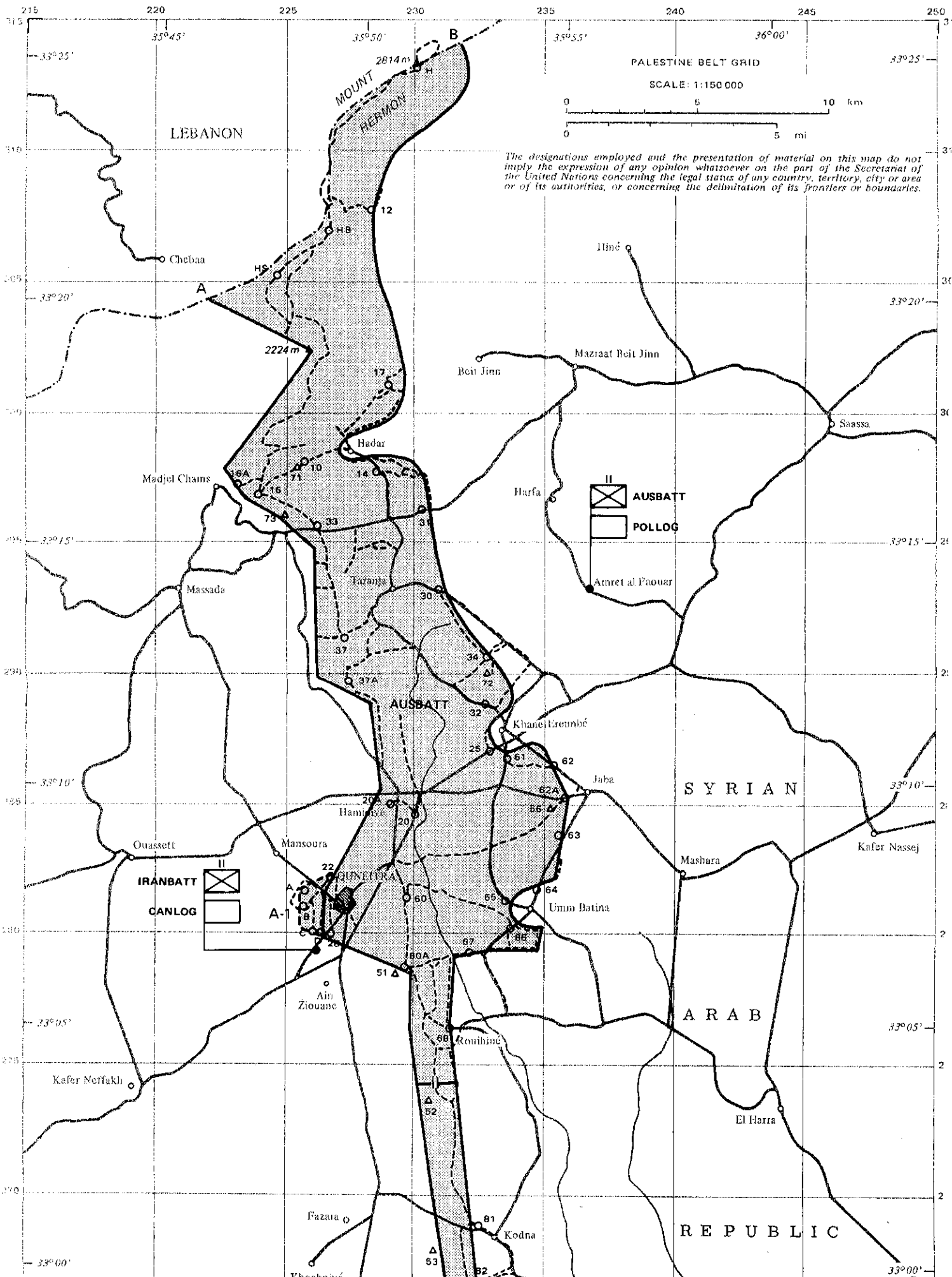
VI. OBSERVATIONS

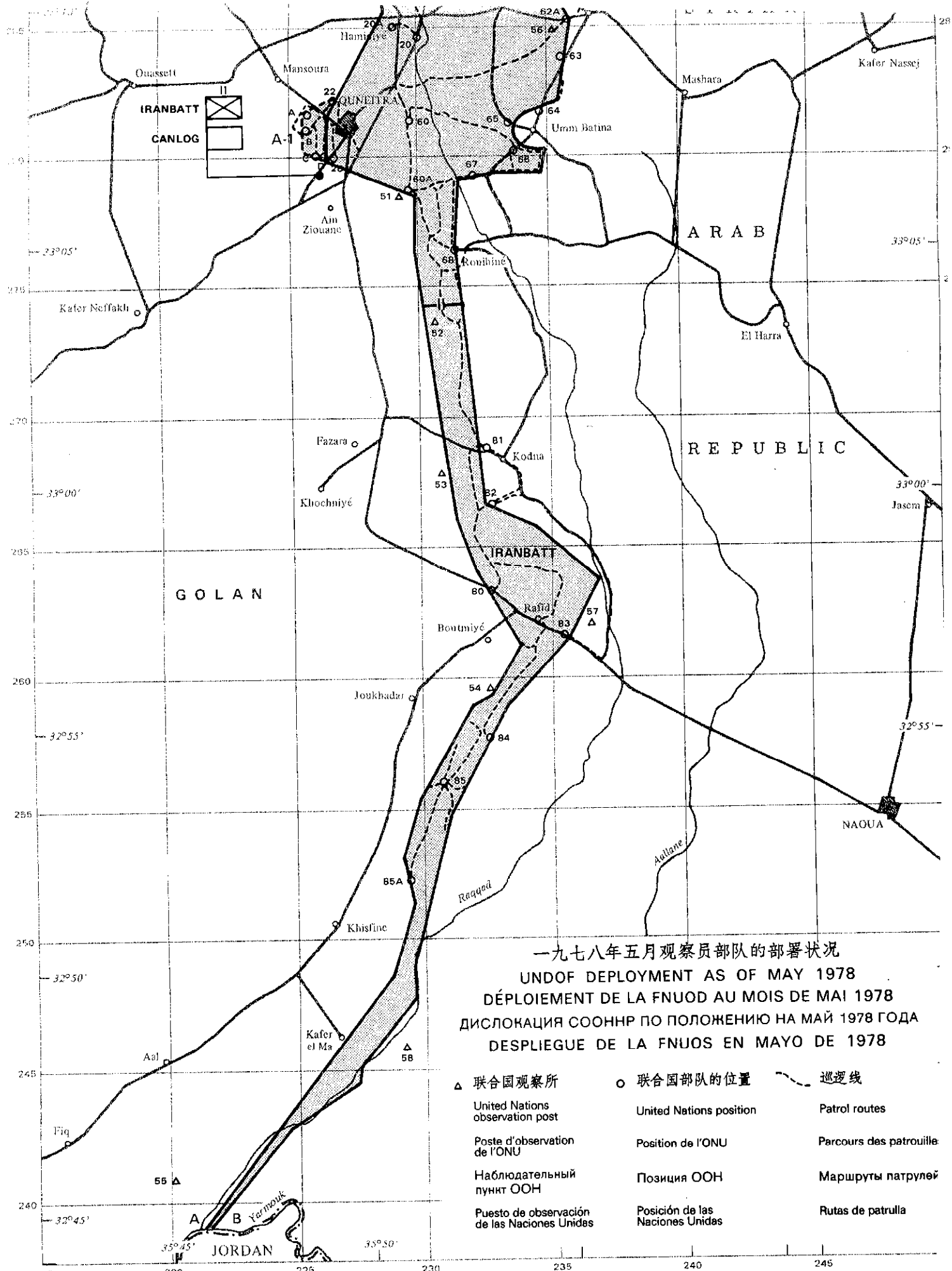
35. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the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

36. The present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector is, however, basically precarious. The main elements of the Middle East problem remain unresolved and the situation in the area as a whole 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. It is increasingly important and urgent that a determined effort be made to achieve progress in the search for such a settlement and, as a first step to this end, to promote an early resumption of the negotiating process in accordance with Security Council resolution 338 (1973).

37. 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 1978. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

38. 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.





一九七八年五月观察员部队的部署状况
 UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF MAY 1978
 DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE MAI 1978
 ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО ПОЛОЖЕНИЮ НА МАЙ 1978 ГОДА
 DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN MAYO DE 1978

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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 |