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

(for the period 25 November 1975 to 24 May 1976)

Addendum

OBSERVATIONS

1. During the period under review, the situation in the UNDOF area of operations has remained quiet. Both parties have continued to comply with the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and with the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974 and to extend their co-operation to UNDOF in the performance of its tasks. There have been no incidents of a serious nature.

2. While the Israel-Syria sector is quiet at the present time, the situation in the Middle East as a whole remains tense and unstable. Unless further progress can be achieved towards a just and durable peace, the situation in the Middle East will become increasingly dangerous.

3. Efforts to advance the implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973) have continued on several levels during the period under review. I have been actively involved in those efforts and in this connexion have maintained contact with all the parties concerned and with the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East. The Security Council itself has devoted much time and attention to the Middle East since it last extended the mandate of UNDOF. I shall, of course, continue my efforts towards the resumption of the negotiating process called for by the Security Council.

4. In the circumstances, it is my considered opinion that the presence of UNDOF continues to be essential, not only to maintain quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, but also to provide an atmosphere conducive to further peace efforts. I therefore recommend to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months until 30 November 1976. The Government of Syria, to which I have just paid a brief visit to discuss this matter, has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

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5. In concluding this report, I wish to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those which provide UNTSO Military Observers assigned to the Force. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Force Commander, Major-General Hannes Philipp, to the officers and men of UNDOF and its civilian staff, as well as to UNTSO Military Observers assigned to UNDOF. All of them have performed their important and difficult tasks with exemplary devotion and efficiency.
