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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

(for the period 17 October 1975 to 18 October 1976)

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the activities of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for the period 17 October 1975 to 18 October 1976. The purpose of this report is to provide the Security Council with a comprehensive description of the activities of UNEF in pursuance of the mandate laid down by the Council in its resolutions 340 (1973) and 341 (1973) of 25 and 27 October 1973 and extended by its resolutions 346 (1974) of 8 April 1974, 362 (1974) of 23 October 1974, 368 (1975) of 17 April 1975, 371 (1975) of 24 July 1975 and 378 (1975) of 23 October 1975.

2. Since my last report (S/11849 of 17 October 1975) UNEF has assumed new functions and responsibilities under the terms of the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975 and the Protocol thereto of 22 September 1975 (S/11818 and Add.1-5). Throughout the period under review, the situation in the UNEF area of operations has remained stable and the Force has continued efficiently to discharge its mandate.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

3. As of 17 September 1976, the strength of the Force was as follows:

Australia	44
Canada	871
Finland	640
Ghana	597
Indonesia	510
Poland	865
Sweden	647
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TOTAL	4,174

The strength figures for the Canadian and Polish logistic components assigned to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) are not included in the above table.

4. In addition to the above, UNEF is assisted by 124 military observers, members of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO). A group of observers, designated as the Observer Group Sinai, was formed in December 1975 following consultation between the Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East, and is made available by the Chief of Staff UNTSO within the context of UNEF's terms of reference, which provide for UNTSO's co-operation with the Force. The observers are assigned special tasks entrusted to the Force and come under the operational control of the Force Commander.

5. As foreshadowed in my last report (S/11849, paras. 21-22), additional military personnel and equipment were needed to enable UNEF to carry out the more extensive

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responsibilities entrusted to it by the terms of the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975. Accordingly, in response to requests I addressed to the Governments of countries contributing contingents to UNEF, reinforcements were made available. Finland, Ghana, Indonesia and Sweden each supplied an additional rifle company while Canada and Poland provided additional personnel for logistic support.

6. In February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Senegal informed me that his Government had decided that it must withdraw its contingent from UNEF. The members of the Security Council were informed of this development on 2 March 1976. The Contingent was repatriated in May/June 1976. The Senegalese battalion has not been replaced, and its area of responsibility has been taken over partly by the Swedish battalion and partly by the Ghanaian battalion. In view of the satisfactory result of the operational arrangement in the present circumstances, and in the interest of economy, there is for the time being no intention to provide for the replacement of the Senegalese contingent unless a change in the situation should make it necessary.

7. In May 1976, in response to an approach by me, the Government of Australia informed me that it would be prepared to supply the helicopters and personnel required by UNEF. After consulting the Security Council, I accepted this offer (S/12098). The Australian unit, with four helicopters and necessary personnel, arrived in Ismailia in July 1976.

8. Lieutenant-General Bengt Liljestrand has been the Commander of UNEF since 20 August 1975. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo has continued as the Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East.

9. It will be recalled that in my previous report (S/11849 of 17 October 1975), I estimated that the strength of UNEF required to carry out its increased tasks, in a buffer zone which is four times the size of the former area of disengagement, would be of the order of 4,825. For the reasons given above, it has become possible, for the time being, to carry out its tasks satisfactorily with the present total of 4,174.

B. Deployment

10. During the period under review, the deployment of UNEF changed considerably following the implementation of the new Agreement. This redeployment, which was executed in 15 separate phases, began in November 1975 and was completed on 22 February 1976 in accordance with the time-table set out in the Protocol to the Agreement. The deployment of the Force as of 1 October (see attached map), was as follows:

(a) Swedish battalion: Base camp at Baluza. It mans three forward command posts and 22 positions in buffer zone 1 in a sector that stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to a line south-east of Ismailia.

(b) Ghanaian battalion: Base camp at Mitla. It mans two forward command posts and 17 positions in buffer zone 1 in a sector that stretches from the southern limit of the Swedish sector to a line south of Mitla.

(c) Indonesian battalion: Base camp at Suez. It mans one forward command post in Ras Sudr and 10 positions in buffer zone 1 and 6 positions in the southern area along the Gulf of Suez in a sector that stretches from the southern limit of the Ghanaian sector to a line south-east of Ras Sudr.

(d) Finnish battalion: Base camp at Abu Rudeis. It mans three forward command posts and 22 positions in the southern area along the Gulf of Suez and buffer zones 2A and 2B in a sector that stretches from the southern limit of the Indonesian sector to Abu Durba in the south.

(e) Canadian contingent: The Canadian contingent is located at El Gala Camp in Ismailia. A small group is deployed at the forward logistics base in El Tasa. It provides supply maintenance, communications and air transport support to the Force and has supporting detachments spread throughout the UNEF area of operation.

(f) Polish contingent: The Polish contingent is located in El Gala Camp. A small group is deployed at the forward logistics base in El Tasa and one transport company is deployed in Suez. It provides maintenance, engineering, including mine clearing, water supply, construction, road maintenance and transport support to the Force and operates a field hospital located in Ismailia.

(g) Australian contingent: The Australian contingent is located in Ismailia. It provides helicopter support to the Force.

(h) UNEF headquarters: The headquarters of the Force is accommodated in buildings in Ismailia. In addition, a liaison office is maintained in Cairo.

(i) Other UNEF elements are located as follows:

- (i) Movement control detachments in Ismailia, Cairo, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Damascus, Alexandria and Port Said;
- (ii) A ration depot in Cairo, with detachments in Suez and Port Said;
- (iii) Military police detachments in Cairo, Suez, Rabah, Eilat, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem;
- (iv) An air transport unit at Ismailia airfield. It operates two Buffalo aircraft. One chartered Skyvan aircraft operates from Ismailia airfield as well as the four helicopters. In addition, the Fokker F-27 aircraft provided by the Government of Switzerland for UNTSO is used by the three peace-keeping missions in the Middle East and operates to Ismailia and Cairo;
- (v) UNEF also provides some of the staff serving in the Office of the Chief Co-ordinator in Jerusalem. Other staff members in this office are drawn from UNTSO and UNDOF.

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11. UNTSO provides military observers who man 12 checkpoints and observation posts, provide liaison with each of the battalions, carry out patrols and serve in staff posts. The group is led by a Chief Military Observer who is located at UNEF headquarters in Ismailia; he has representatives located at offices in Cairo and Jerusalem.

C. Rotation

12. The following personnel rotations took place during the period under review:

(a) Canadian contingent: Personnel are rotated in small groups on a weekly basis.

(b) Finnish contingent: The rotation is staggered so that half the contingent is rotated every three months. In November 1975 an additional 152 troops arrived.

(c) Ghanaian contingent: The entire contingent was rotated twice; at the beginning of April 1976 and in September/October 1976. In February 1976 100 additional troops arrived.

(d) Indonesian contingent: The entire contingent was rotated twice; in February/March 1976 and September 1976. In September 1976 an additional 60 troops arrived.

(e) Polish contingent: The entire contingent was rotated twice, in November/December 1975 and again in May/June 1976. In December 1975/January 1976 an additional 70 troops arrived.

(f) Senegalese contingent: The Senegalese contingent was repatriated in May/June 1976 (see para. 6 above).

(g) Swedish contingent: The entire contingent was rotated twice; in December 1975 and in June 1976. In January/February 1976 an additional 150 troops arrived.

(h) Australian contingent: The contingent arrived in July 1976 (see para. 7 above).

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

13. The redeployment of UNEF as a result of the implementation of the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975 and the Protocol has made it necessary to provide new accommodations for the major part of the Force. Some existing premises in the new areas were available to the Force for use as base camps but they have required renovations and repairs to varying degrees. This work, which is carried out by the troops themselves, is progressing satisfactorily. There is,

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however, a requirement for additional base camps and for this purpose the Force had received most of the necessary prefabricated buildings and equipment. Progress in constructing these camps has been severely hampered by a shortage of skilled manpower and specialized engineering equipment. To overcome this, additional skilled construction personnel will be provided on a temporary basis by the Government of Poland.

14. Apart from the base camps, it has become necessary to provide new accommodations for the troops and military observers at each of the positions, observation posts and checkpoints. Eighty prefabricated buildings have been provided for this purpose. Construction of these buildings is also carried out by the troops themselves whenever they can be spared from operational duties. To date, approximately one third have been erected, the remainder being in various stages of completion.

15. When the headquarters of UNEF was transferred from Cairo to Ismailia the Government of Egypt made available the buildings in which the UNEF headquarters is at present accommodated. This assistance offered by the Egyptian Government is greatly appreciated. Meanwhile a new situation has arisen since the opening of the Suez Canal, and I have been informed by the Government of Egypt that the buildings at present occupied by UNEF headquarters are urgently needed by the Suez Canal Authority. The Government of Egypt has therefore requested the return of the buildings presently housing UNEF headquarters, and an intensive effort is being made to find alternative accommodation for UNEF headquarters in co-operation with the Government of Egypt. In any case the moving of the headquarters will require considerable new construction which may entail financial consequences, the magnitude of which will depend upon the location finally chosen.

B. Logistics

16. The additional vehicles and equipment required to enable the Force to carry out its enlarged role have arrived and are in use. Part of the over-all vehicle fleet is, however, quite old and unable to withstand the difficult road conditions.

17. The provision of adequate communications for the Force over the greater distances in its enlarged area of operations has presented problems which, with the arrival of more suitable equipment will, it is hoped, be overcome.

18. The system of procurement of spare parts and normal supplies continues to improve. Difficulties are still being experienced, however, in maintaining supplies to the operational battalions. The long distances involved and the prevailing road conditions have severely strained the transportation resources, although this will be partly overcome by replacing the existing fleet of load-carrying vehicles, as they wear out, by larger and more suitable types. The restricted possibilities in crossing the Suez Canal since its reopening have been partly offset by the rental of a ferry and by the establishment of a reserve logistics base at El Tasa in buffer zone 1. This base holds rations and other supply reserves and also houses maintenance and engineer teams. The provision of adequate quantities of potable water to the battalions has become a major task and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future.

19. There are approximately 1,600 kilometres of roads within the buffer zones which must be kept cleared of sand and in a reasonable state of repair if UNEF is to be able to carry out its operational tasks. To assist in these tasks UNEF has a small road clearance and repair unit which is constantly in demand. Since March 1976, this unit has cleared over 1,150 kilometres of road. A survey group is at present determining what additional assistance is required to maintain the roads for which UNEF is responsible. For this and other construction tasks some additional military personnel - to be determined on the completion of the survey - will be required.

20. Another task which has increased considerably since the enlargement of the Force's responsibilities is that of mine clearing. Before positions and patrol routes could be established the areas had to be checked for mines. Since February 1976, UNEF's small mine clearing unit had checked an area of over 167,000 square metres and located and destroyed large quantities of mines and other live ammunition discovered in the vicinity of proposed sites for camps and positions.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

21. The functions and guidelines of the Force are outlined in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 340 (1973) (S/11052/Rev.1), which was approved by the Council in its resolution 341 (1973). Specific tasks consistent with its terms of reference were entrusted to UNEF and the Chief Co-ordinator of United Nations peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East by the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975, its annex and the Protocol.

22. The Chief Co-ordinator and the Force Commander have continued the practice of separate meetings with the military authorities of Egypt and Israel concerning the implementation of the terms of reference of the Force and the inspections carried out by UNEF in the areas of limited forces and armaments. In addition, the Chief Co-ordinator maintains contact with the parties at ministerial level on important issues. These meetings supplement those of the Joint Commission as provided for in the Agreement. Relations between UNEF and the parties continue to be cordial and productive.

B. Freedom of movement

23. The problem of restrictions on the freedom of movement of personnel of certain contingents still exists. As I have said before, UNEF must function as an "integrated and efficient military unit", and its contingents must serve on an equal basis under the command of the Force Commander and no differentiation can be made regarding the United Nations status of various contingents. I am continuing my efforts to achieve this objective.

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C. Personnel matters

24. The general discipline, understanding and bearing of all members of UNEF has been exemplary, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents.

25. During the period under review, one member of the Ghana contingent and a member of the Indonesian contingent died of natural causes. One member of the Ghana contingent and four members of the Polish contingent died in vehicle accidents.

D. Observance of the cease-fire and implementation of the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975 and of the Protocol of 22 September 1975

26. The Force has continued to supervise the observance of the cease-fire and has assisted in the implementation of the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975 and the Protocol of 22 September 1975.

27. UNEF's first task under the new Agreement was to mark on the ground the new lines of disengagement. To carry out this work, a group of specialist surveyors was supplied by Sweden at my request, and on an ad hoc basis. Work began in October 1975 and was completed in accordance with the schedule as set out in the Protocol to the Agreement to the satisfaction of all concerned.

28. In November 1975, UNEF began its assistance to the parties in the redeployment of their forces. The first phase of the redeployment took place in the area south of line E and west of line M (the southern area) and was completed on 1 December 1975. During this period, UNEF, through the Chief Co-ordinator, successfully supervised the transfer of the oil fields and installations in the area.

29. The second phase of the redeployment, which took place in the northern area, began on 12 January 1976 and was completed on 22 February 1976 in accordance with the time-table.

30. In the southern area, UNEF's task is to assure that no military or para-military forces of any kind, military fortifications and military installations are in the area. To perform these functions it established checkpoints and observation posts in accordance with the Protocol and has carried out patrols through the area, including patrols by aircraft. It has also established the two buffer zones and maintains permanent checkpoints on the buffer zone lines. UNEF has further supervised the use of the common road sections by the parties in accordance with arrangements agreed to by them and has provided escorts when necessary.

31. The northern area consists of buffer zone 1 and areas of limited forces and armaments. UNEF's function in the buffer zone is to prevent any unauthorized

entry into the zone by any person. It has carried out this task by means of a system of checkpoints, observation posts and patrols by land and within the buffer zone and along the lines. Some 7,000 Egyptian citizens live in the northern part of the buffer zone. In the Early Warning System area, which is located within the buffer zone, UNEF has also furnished the required escorts. UNEF was also entrusted with the task of ensuring the maintenance of the agreed limitations of forces and armaments within the areas specified in the Agreement. To this end it conducts bi-weekly inspections and informs the parties of the results.

32. The Joint Commission, established by the terms of the Agreement, has held six meetings in the buffer zone under the chairmanship of the Chief Co-ordinator. UNEF has assisted in providing facilities for these meetings.

33. UNEF has also assisted the Chief Co-ordinator in carrying out his functions in connexion with receiving and passing on notifications of reconnaissance flights agreed to by the parties.

34. During the period under review, UNEF has continued to receive the full co-operation of the parties in carrying out the functions entrusted to it. There have been no significant violations of the cease-fire or the Agreement although numerous limited incursions in the buffer zone by both parties by land and air have been observed and reported. In such cases, however, assurances that remedial action will be taken have been received from the party concerned. UNEF has also received a number of complaints from both parties alleging violations. These have been taken up with the party concerned by the Force Commander or the Chief Co-ordinator and, in some instances, have been the subject of discussion at meetings of the Joint Commission.

IV. HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

35. UNEF has maintained close contact with ICRC representatives and has extended its assistance in providing facilities for family reunions and student exchanges, which have taken place at an agreed site in buffer zone 1. During the period under review, 5,230 persons crossed from Egypt to Israeli-occupied territory and 4,351 crossed from Israeli-occupied territory to Egypt. The transfer of items such as school books and other supplies was also conducted under UNEF auspices.

36. Although search operations for the remains of soldiers killed during the October 1973 hostilities in the Suez Canal area terminated on 1 July 1974, bodies are still occasionally discovered in the UNEF area of operations. During the period under review the remains of four soldiers were found and turned over to the party concerned.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

37. Should the Security Council decide to extend UNEF's mandate for a period of 12 months beyond 24 October 1976, the costs of maintaining the Force for that period would be of the order of \$83 million, based on the manpower requirements indicated above and assuming continuance of its existing responsibilities.

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38. It will be noted that this figure represents a significant reduction from the \$94.3 million appropriated for the preceding 12-month mandate. This amount was, of course, supplemented by the generous voluntary contribution of about \$10 million in kind, which was made available by the Government of the United States of America. The smaller present estimate is mainly due to the reduction of the over-all number of troops of UNEF and to certain non-recurring costs. In implementing the budget for the present mandate, I have been mindful of the necessity of exercising the utmost economy consistent with efficient performance.

39. The figure of \$83 million given above does not cover possible extra costs involved in the solution of the problem of the accommodation of UNEF headquarters referred to in paragraph 15 above.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

40. In deciding in its resolution 378 (1975) to renew the mandate of UNEF for a further period of one year until 24 October 1976, 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 that period a report on developments in the situation and the steps taken to implement that resolution.

41. During the period under review, efforts have been made at several levels to promote an early resumption of the negotiations aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East as called for in Security Council resolution 338 (1973). Those efforts are described in detail in the report which the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council on 18 October 1976 in pursuance of the Assembly's resolution 3414 (XXX) on the situation in the Middle East (A/31/270-S/12210).

VII. OBSERVATIONS

42. The period under review was marked by a further redeployment of the Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Sinai peninsula. In accordance with the Agreement between Egypt and Israel of 4 September 1975 and its Protocol, which was reported in detail in my last report on the United Nations Emergency Force (S/11849), the redeployment operation was successfully carried out with the assistance of UNEF. The Emergency Force is now deployed in an area which is more than four times the size of the former area of disengagement, and its responsibilities under the new Agreement are far more extensive and complex than those it had assumed previously. In carrying out its task, UNEF has enjoyed the full co-operation of the parties concerned and thus has been able to discharge its responsibilities in a satisfactory manner.

43. The presence of UNEF in the Egypt/Israel sector has undoubtedly been a major factor in the maintenance of the cease-fire called for by the Council and

reaffirmed in the Egypt/Israel Agreement. Furthermore, the Force has continued to provide its good offices to the parties in dealing with urgent problems on the ground. Welcome though these developments are, we should ever be mindful of the essential role of a peace-keeping force in an area of conflict; namely, to maintain quiet and to create an atmosphere conducive to the active search for the peaceful solution of underlying political problems. If there is a continuing lack of progress in efforts to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973), the situation in the Middle East will inevitably remain unstable in spite of peace-keeping and other arrangements.

44. Taking into account the relevant factors involved, I consider the continued presence of UNEF in the area to be essential. In the circumstances and considering the relevant provisions of the agreement, I therefore recommend the extension of the mandate for one year.

45. In concluding this report I wish once again to record my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to the United Nations Emergency Force. I wish also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Chief Co-ordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Missions in the Middle East, Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo; to the Commander of UNEF, Lieutenant-General Bengt Liljestrand, to the officers and men of the Force and its civilian staff, as well as to the Military Observers of UNTSO assigned to assist UNEF in the fulfilment of its responsibilities. They have performed with devotion and efficiency the important and difficult tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

