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

(for the period 21 November 1981-20 May 1982)

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 21 November 1981 to 20 May 1982. 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, 429 (1978) of 31 May 1978, 441 (1978) of 30 November 1978, 449 (1979) of 30 May 1979, 456 (1979) of 30 November 1979, 470 (1980) of 30 May 1980, 481 (1980) of 26 November 1980, 485 (1981) of 22 May 1981 and 493 (1981) of 23 November 1981.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

2. The composition of UNDOF as of 20 May 1982 was as follows:

Austria	526
Canada	220
Finland	390
Poland	131
United Nations military observers (under operational control from	
untso)	12
	1,279

- 3. In addition to the above, observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assigned to the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission assist UNDOF as occasion requires.
- 4. Major-General Erkki R. Kaira, who has continued as Commander of the Force, ends his term on 31 May 1982. Subject to the extension of the mandate of UNDOF by the Security Council, Major-General Carl-Gustaf St2hl of Sweden will assume command of the Force with effect from 1 June 1982 (S/15019 and S/15020).

B. Deployment

5. UNDOF personnel remain deployed within and close to the area of separation with base camps and logistic units located nearby; UNDOF headquarters is located in Damascus. The UNDOF deployment as of 20 May 1982 is shown on the attached map.

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- 6. At present, the Austrian battalion mans 19 positions and 7 outposts and conducts 16 patrols daily and 13 other patrols at irregular intervals in the area of separation north and inclusive of the Damascus-Quneitra road. The Finnish battalion mans 15 positions and 4 outposts and conducts 15 patrols daily and 12 other patrols at irregular intervals in the area of separation south of the Damascus-Quneitra road.
- 7. The Austrian battalion base camp is located near Wadi Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Finnish battalion base camp is located near the village of Ziouani, west of the area of separation. The Austrian battalion continues to share its base camp with the Polish logistic unit, and the Finnish battalion shares Camp Ziouani with the Canadian logistic company. The Canadian signal unit has detachments at Camps Ziouani and Faouar, as well as at Damascus and Quneitra. Military police detachments are located in Damascus, Tiberias and Camp Ziouani.

C. Rotation

8. The Austrian contingent carried out partial rotations on 24 November and 3 December 1981 and on 23 February and 4 March 1982. The Finnish contingent rotated on 3 December 1981 and on 3-4 February and 5-6 May 1982. The Polish logistic unit rotated on 2 and 12 December 1981. The Canadian logistic unit rotates in small groups every two or three weeks.

D. Discipline

9. The discipline, understanding and steadfastness of all members of the Force have been of a high order, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents to the Force.

E. Casualties

10. During the period covered by this report there were no casualties resulting in death or permanent disability.

II. ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodation

- 11. With the erection of 10 prefabricated buildings, living and working conditions of Force personnel have been further improved. Various other minor projects for enlargement and improvement of premises have been completed during the last six months.
- 12. Since the establishment of the Force, UNDOF headquarters have been located in rented premises in Damascus. These premises need to be changed, and plans are therefore being considered to relocate the headquarters in prefabricated buildings.

B. Logistic support

- 13. Second- and third-line logistic support continues to be provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units. The Damascus international airport continues to serve as the UNDOF airhead for rotation and supply flights. The ports of Latakia and Tartous are used for sea shipments. An air movement control organization operates in Damascus and sea shipments are handled by local agents. In-theatre air support is provided by UNTSO on special request.
- 14. A 180 days second-line stock level has been established in the Canadian logistics unit for supplies of stationery, cleaning materials and vehicle spare parts. A bulk purchase contract has been established for the supply of vehicle spares and economies have been achieved by the bulk purchase of cleaning materials and stationery. A project is under way to improve supply warehousing facilities in Camp Ziouani and frozen food storage capacity is also being increased. The UNDOF vehicle workshop in Damascus was completed in February 1982.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

- 15. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF, as well as its tasks, remain as outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 8-10).
- 16. 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.

B. Freedom of movement

17. The Protocol to the Agreement on Disengagement provides for all contingents to operate with full freedom of movement. However, the problem of restrictions on the freedom of movement still exists. The Secretary-General will continue to exert all possible efforts to correct this situation.

C. Maintenance of the cease-fire

18. 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 concerning the UNDOF area of operations have been lodged by either party in this respect.

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

- 19. 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 irregular intervals on predetermined routes by day and night. In addition, temporary outposts are established and patrols are conducted from time to time to perform specific tasks. The ability of UNDOF to supervise the area by night has continued to be enhanced by the acquisition of additional night observation devices.
- 20. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement on Disengagement, UNDOF continues to conduct fortnightly inspections of armament and forces in the area of limitation. These inspections are carried out with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties, who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams. UNDOF also lends its assistance and good offices on request from the parties. In carrying out its tasks, UNDOF has continued to receive the co-operation of both parties, although restrictions on movement and inspection are sometimes placed on UNDOF teams in certain areas by both sides. UNDOF has continued to seek the lifting of these restrictions so as to guarantee its freedom of access to all locations on both sides.
- 21. The safety of Syrian shepherds who graze their flocks close to and west of line A (see map) continues to be of concern to UNDOF. The intensified patrolling on new mine-cleared patrol paths and, from time to time, the establishment of standing patrols in these areas have helped to prevent incidents. In addition, a grazing security fence which has now been erected over some 13 kilometres in the southern part of the area of separation has proved to be effective in reducing the number of incidents.

E. Mines

22. Mines continue to pose a threat to members of the Force and to the local population. This is a matter of concern to UNDOF, and the Force is continuing its efforts in consultation with the parties to make the area of operation safe from mines. During the period, four Polish mine-clearing teams have cleared 10,440 metres of patrol paths and 5,150 square metres at bases in the area of separation. In the process, 33 artillery shells, 10 mortar shells, 6 anti-personnel mines and 1 hand-grenade as well as some 600 kilograms of other explosives were destroyed.

F. Humanitarian activities

23. UNDOF has continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for family reunions and student exchanges. However, since 15 February 1982 no family meetings could be arranged owing to developments in relation to the Golan Heights.

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IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

24. By its resolution 36/66 A of 30 November 1981, the General Assembly, among other things, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNDOF at a rate not to exceed \$2,662,333 gross (\$2,630,833 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1982, inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 493 (1981) of 23 November 1981. Accordingly, should the Security Council renew the UNDOF mandate beyond 31 May 1982, the costs to the United Nations for maintaining UNDOF up to 30 November 1982 will be within the commitment authority provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/66 A, assuming continuance of the Force's existing strength and responsibilities. Appropriate financial provision will need to be made by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session in respect of periods after 30 November 1982, if the period of extension determined by the Security Council goes beyond that date.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

- 25. In deciding in its resolution 493 (1981) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon all parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit at the end of the period a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.
- 26. 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 Secretary-General's report on the Middle East problem (A/36/655-S/14746), submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/207 of 16 December 1980. The Secretary-General has continued to maintain contacts on the matter with the parties and interested Governments.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

- 27. 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 Israel and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974, 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 serious incidents.
- 28. 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).

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- 29. 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 1982. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.
- 30. In concluding the present report, I wish 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 to pay tribute to Major-General Erkki Kaira, Commander of the Force, who retires on 31 May 1982, to the officers and men of the Force, to 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 tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.



