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

(for the period 27 November 1974 to 21 May 1975)

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 28 November to 21 May 1975, including a summary of the information presented to the Security Council in my last progress report (S/11563/Add.1), as well as an account of developments since that report. The purpose of the present report 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 its resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and extended by resolution 363 (1974) of 29 November 1974.

2. During the period covered by the present 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 its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

3. As of 10 May 1975 the composition of UNDOF was as follows:

Austria	518
Canada	152
Peru	348
Poland	85
Headquarters staff on secondment from UNEF	6
Military observers (detailed from UNTSO)	89
	<u>1,198</u>

4. I am pleased to report that, in response to my request, the Peruvian Government, which had indicated its intention to withdraw its contingent during the first half of 1975 (S/11563, para. 7), has agreed to maintain its contingent with UNDOF until the end of July 1975.

5. In a note of 10 January 1975 (S/11595) to the President of the Security Council, I reported that Colonel Hannes Philipp of Austria, designated Chief of Staff, has been officer-in-charge of UNDOF since 15 December 1974, following the departure of Brigadier-General Gonzalo Briceño Zevallos.

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B. Deployment

6. UNDOF troops continue to be deployed within or close to the area of separation, with base camps and logistic support units situated close to that area. The Austrian battalion mans positions in the area of separation north of Quneitra, with its base camp at Camp Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Peruvian battalion is deployed south of Quneitra, with its base camp at Camp Bolivar, just west of the area of separation. The Canadian logistic unit shares Camp Bolivar with the Peruvians, and the Polish logistic unit shares Camp Faouar with the Austrians, while the Canadian signal unit has detachments in Camp Faouar, Camp Bolivar and Damascus. The UNDOF military observers operate out of Tiberias and Damascus. UNDOF also maintains a liaison office in Jerusalem.

7. As noted in my progress report (S/11563/Add.1, para. 7) UNDOF, with the agreement of the parties, temporarily withdrew one of its positions on Mount Hermon because of severe weather conditions. However, the mountain ridge between the peak and the Alpha line continued to be patrolled regularly. That post was re-established on 7 May 1975.

8. Following a reorganization of its communications system in April 1975, UNDOF ceased manning the communications relay facility at Quneitra. That facility is now staffed solely by UNTSO personnel, who have been providing administrative and operating support to UNDOF.

C. Rotation

9. The Austrian contingent carried out a partial rotation in February and March and is carrying out another in May 1975.

10. The Peruvian contingent was partially rotated in November 1974.

11. The Polish logistic unit rotated in December 1974 and will rotate in small groups in May and June 1975. The Canadian logistic unit rotates in small groups at regular intervals.

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

12. The programme to provide suitable accommodation for UNDOF troops referred to in my report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, para. 23) and in my progress report of 21 January 1975 (S/11563/Add.1, para. 16) has been completed.

13. UNDOF headquarters is still located in two separate buildings in Damascus, one of which it shares with UNTSO. Efforts are continuing to find a suitable building to provide office space for all elements of the headquarters.

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B. Logistic support

14. Logistic support for the Force continues to be provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units as outlined in my previous report (S/11563, para. 25). The Polish logistic unit increased its mine-clearing capability by providing two mine-clearing teams. As a result of the excellent work done by these teams a large area has been cleared of mines, thereby enhancing the mobility of the Force within the area of separation.

15. As I noted in my progress report (S/11563/Add.1, para. 15) the air link between Ismailia and Damascus was re-established on 18 December 1974.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

16. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF have not changed since my last report (S/11563, paras. 8-10). Furthermore, the tasks of UNDOF as stated in the same report (ibid., para. 9) remain unchanged.

17. 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 officer-in-charge and his staff with the military liaison staffs of Israel and Syria. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo, Commander of UNEF, has continued, at my request, to take part in high-level contacts, and, as occasion requires, in meetings between the officer-in-charge of UNDOF and military representatives of Israel and Syria concerning the functioning of the Force.

B. Freedom of movement

18. Despite the efforts made towards resolving the question of freedom of movement, the arrangements that have been worked out still fall short of what is required and of what is provided for in the Protocol to the Agreement on Disengagement. Efforts are continuing to secure full acceptance of this important principle.

C. Personnel matters

19. The general discipline, understanding and bearing of all members of UNDOF 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.

20. One member of the Austrian contingent died on 8 March 1975 as a result of illness.

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D. Maintenance of the cease-fire

21. During the period under review, the cease-fire has been maintained. There were no significant violations and no casualties.

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

Area of separation

22. UNDOF has continued to supervise the area of separation to ensure that there are no military forces within it, in accordance with its mandate. It has carried out this function by means of static posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by mobile patrols.

23. UNDOF has continued to carry out its tasks within the area of separation in a manner which neither hampers the Syrian administration nor derogates from Syrian sovereignty. Good relations have been maintained between UNDOF and the civilian authorities, as well as with the civilian population in the area.

24. As noted in my previous reports, the continued existence of uncleared minefields within the area of separation constitutes an ever present hazard to both UNDOF troops and the civilian population. Unfortunately, no progress has been made in the negotiations to enable comprehensive mine-clearing operations to be carried out. However, mine-clearing work in some areas has been carried out by Syrian civilian authorities and by UNDOF mine-clearing teams. As noted in paragraph 14 above, the ability of UNDOF to patrol in the area of separation has been greatly enhanced.

25. UNDOF has continued to investigate complaints from both parties concerning alleged violations of the Agreement with regard to the area of separation and to draw the attention of the parties to violations it has itself observed, with a view to having corrective action taken.

26. The decrease in the number of overflights of the area of separation, noted in my previous report (S/11563/Add.1, para. 12), has continued.

27. The work referred to in my last report to render the A and B lines, which define the area of separation, more readily identifiable on the ground is still proceeding.

Areas of limitation

28. UNDOF has continued to carry out the inspections of the areas of limitation of armaments and forces as provided for in the Agreement. The inspections are carried out with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams in their respective areas. As agreed to by the parties, the findings of the inspections are made available only to them. UNDOF lends its assistance and good offices in cases where one of the parties raises questions concerning the observance of the agreed limitation of armaments and forces. In carrying out this function, UNDOF has continued to receive the full co-operation of both parties.

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29. As noted in my progress report (S/11563/Add.1, para. 14), UNDOF exercised its good offices in connexion with the release and handover of three Syrians who had been held by the Israeli authorities, as well as the handover of a Syrian civilian who was killed in a minefield.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

30. By its resolution 3211 B (XXIX), the General Assembly appropriated and apportioned an amount of \$40 million for the operation of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 25 October 1974 to 24 April 1975 and, in addition, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNEF and UNDOF at a rate not to exceed \$6,666,667 per month for the period from 25 April to 31 October 1975, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond 24 April 1975. As I indicated in paragraph 40 of my report to the Security Council of 27 November 1974 (S/11563), the UNDOF share of the above \$40 million, which has since been apportioned, is approximately \$7.6 million.

31. It has thus far been possible to keep the rate of obligations and expenditures of the Force within the level of the appropriations and authorizations provided by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Secretary-General believes that, should the Council decide to continue UNDOF beyond 31 May 1975, the cost for the contemplated period of extension (see para. 36) will remain within the level of the authorization provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 3211 B (XXIX), assuming continuance of the existing responsibilities and conditions under which UNDOF operates.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

32. In its resolutions 363 (1974) of 29 November 1974 and 368 (1975) of 17 April 1975, the Security Council requested me also to report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973. Since my last report, as members of the Council are aware, efforts have been continued on several levels to advance the implementation of resolution 338 (1973). I myself have lost no opportunity, in my contacts with the parties and with other Governments, to try to contribute to this process. In addition to my own efforts, I have, in recent weeks, sent one of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs, Mr. Roberto Guyer, to the area to make contact with all the Governments concerned, as well as with the senior officers and officials of the United Nations operations in the area.

33. In view of the current series of high-level meetings among those concerned, including the co-chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, I consider that it would be premature for me to comment further on this matter at the present time.

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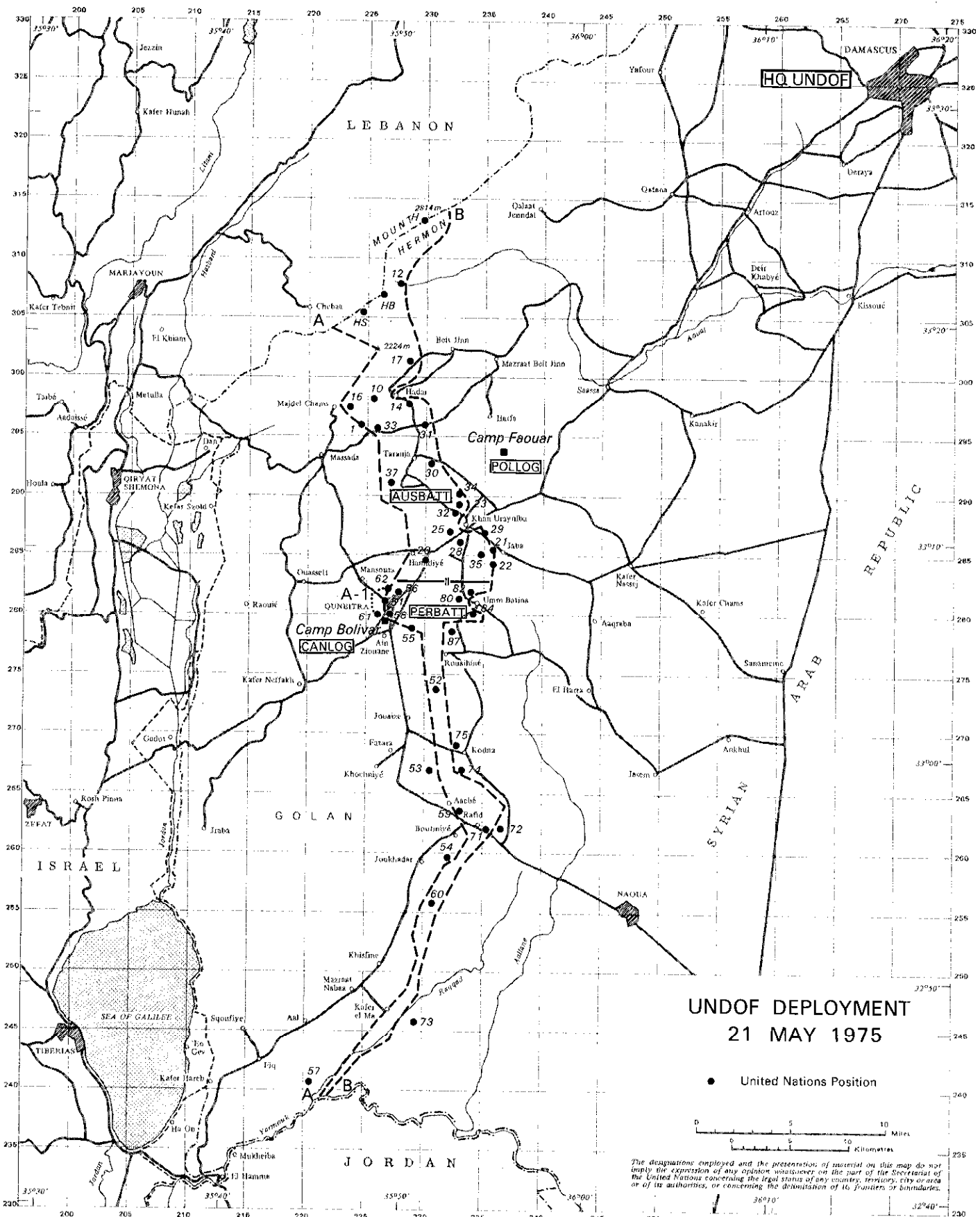
VI. OBSERVATIONS

34. During the period under review, the situation in the UNDOF area of operations has remained quiet. Both parties have continued generally to comply with the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. The cease-fire has been maintained, and there have been no significant violations and no casualties.

35. But the present quiet is a precarious one. The Disengagement Agreement, as specifically stated in its last paragraph, is not a peace agreement but only a step towards a just and durable peace on the basis of Security Council resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973. Until further progress can be made towards the achievement of such a just and durable peace, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector, and indeed in the Middle East as a whole, will remain unstable and potentially dangerous.

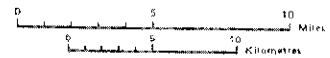
36. As in the case of UNEF (S/11670), I consider that the continued presence of UNDOF at the present crucial time is essential, not only to maintain quiet in the Israel-Syria sector but also to provide an atmosphere conducive to further efforts towards the achievement of the just and lasting peace called for by the Security Council and to assist in such further efforts, as required. I have been in contact with the Governments of Syria and Israel. The Government of Syria has agreed to an extension of the mandate for a further period of six months. The Government of Israel is also in favour of an extension for the same period. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months.

37. 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 UNDOF. I wish also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the officer-in-charge of UNDOF, Colonel Hannes Philipp, to the officers and men of UNDOF and to its civilian staff, as well as to UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF, for the efficient manner in which they have performed their important and difficult duties.



**UNDOF DEPLOYMENT
21 MAY 1975**

● United Nations Position



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.