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Further Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Emergency Force

1. Since my progress report dated 13 May 1974 (S/11248/Add.2), the military situation in the UNEF area of operations has remained calm. The Force continues to carry out effectively the tasks assigned to it.

2. This period has been marked by the repatriation of the Irish contingent, the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the detachment to it of certain elements of UNEF. These events have caused some changes in the deployment and composition of UNEF.

Repatriation of the Irish contingent

3. In response to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Ireland dated 18 May 1974 (S/11248/Add.3), urgent arrangements were made for the repatriation of the Irish battalion and the Irish personnel of UNEF headquarters staff. The main body of the contingent, 282 personnel, was repatriated by air from Tel Aviv on 22 May, leaving behind a rear party of 41 personnel at the former Irish base camp near Rabah. This rear party is expected to be repatriated in July, following the disposal and hand-over of equipment. As indicated in a subsequent letter from the Irish Permanent Representative (S/11248/Add.4), the withdrawal of the Irish contingent is to be considered provisional.

4. On 19 May, the Nepalese battalion was directed to assume responsibility for the Irish sector in the zone of disengagement. Using one company and a small battalion headquarters element, the Nepalese relieved the Irish at noon on 20 May. Throughout the period 21 to 27 May, the Nepalese battalion moved its remaining elements from Cairo and Ismailia to the former Irish base camp at Al Nagila near Rabah. During the same period, the security duties of the Nepalese in Cairo and Ismailia were assumed by elements of the Ghanaian and Indonesian battalions respectively.

Deployment to the UNDOF area of operations

5. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and approval by the Council on the same day of the interim arrangements proposed by me to give effect to that resolution, designated elements of UNEF commenced deployment to the Israel-Syria sector on 3 June in accordance with

contingency plans drawn up by UNEF headquarters. The movements of the Austrian and Peruvian contingents and of elements of the Canadian and Polish contingents of UNEF have been reported to the Council in my progress reports on UNDOF (S/11310 and Add.1).

6. In view of the transfer to UNDOF of the UNEF Northern Brigade headquarters, including its commander, Brigadier-General G. Briceño, who has been appointed interim Commander of UNDOF, it has been decided to disband the Northern and Southern Brigade headquarters on 22 June. Their functions will be taken over by UNEF offices located in Rabah and Suez, to be headed respectively by Colonel A. N. Rana, of Nepal, and Brigadier S. M. Jogie, of Indonesia. The staff released by this measure will be used to fill existing vacancies in UNEF headquarters and in the contingents.

7. To date, approximately 1,050 troops and 235 vehicles of all types have been transferred from the UNEF area of operations to UNDOF. In addition, personnel from UNEF headquarters have been temporarily detailed to UNDOF; some of these will return to UNEF following the completion of disengagement in that sector on 26 June 1974.

Composition of UNEF

8. On 18 June, the strength of personnel in the UNEF area of operations, including headquarters staffs, was as follows:

Canada	884
Finland	497
Ghana	509
Indonesia	549
Nepal	571
Panama	446
Poland	756
Senegal	398
Sweden	<u>469</u>
Total	5,079

In the above table, the strength figures for the Canadian and Polish logistic components do not include the elements transferred to UNDOF. In addition to the above, rear parties remaining in the UNEF area of operations as of the morning 18 June numbered as follows:

Austria	67 (including 6 in UNEF headquarters)
Peru	10
Ireland	<u>41</u>
Total	118

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9. The following rotations of personnel of the contingents have taken place during the period under review or will commence in the near future:

(a) Swedish battalion: During period 16 May to 14 June, 310 members were rotated and replaced. The rotation will be completed 18 June.

(b) Irish battalion: On 22 May, 282 members were repatriated.

(c) Austrian battalion: During the period 10 to 30 May, 357 members of the battalion were repatriated and replaced by 258 personnel.

(d) Panamanian battalion: During the period 21 to 26 May, 406 members of the battalion were repatriated and replaced by 446 personnel.

(e) Polish logistics element: During the period 16 May to 13 June, 447 personnel were repatriated and replaced by 473 personnel. The rotation is to be completed by 4 July 1974.

(f) Canadian logistics element: Personnel continue to be rotated in small groups at weekly intervals.

(g) The rotation of the Peruvian battalion, which had been scheduled for mid-June, has been postponed to mid-July, in connexion with their transfer to UNDOF.

10. Brigadier S. M. Jogie of Indonesia will assume command of the Southern Brigade on 19 June, replacing Colonel A. N. Rana of Nepal, who had been in acting command since 1 May. On 22 June, Brigadier Jogie and Colonel Rana will take over the newly established UNEF offices in Suez and Rabah, respectively (see para. 6 above).

11. Following the transfer of the Austrian and Peruvian battalions to UNDOF on 3 June, the former Peruvian sector in the UNEF zone of disengagement was taken over by the Swedish battalion, and the former Austrian sector by the Ghanaian and Senegalese battalions. Take-overs were completed without problems by 1500 GMT on 3 June.

Current deployment and activities

12. The deployment of UNEF as of 16 June, including base camps and sectors of the zone of disengagement, was as follows:

(a) The Nepalese battalion occupies a sector about 28 kilometres long from the Mediterranean Sea in the north to the Kantara-Baluza road in the south. The battalion is manning a forward command post and six outposts in its sector. The base camp is at Al Nagila near Rabah.

(b) The Panamanian battalion occupies a sector about 22 kilometres long from the Kantara-Baluza road in the north to a line east of the southern end

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of El-Ballah Island in the south. The battalion is manning a forward command post and seven outposts in its sector. The base camp is at Qatia Oasis, 5 kilometres south of Rabah.

(c) The Swedish battalion occupies a sector about 30 kilometres long from a line east of the southern end of El-Ballah Island in the north to a line east of the northern end of Great Bitter Lake in the south. The battalion is manning a forward command post and 14 outposts in its sector. The base camp is on the western shore of Lake Timsah, 5 kilometres south of Ismailia. The Swedish battalion completed its move from Ismailia to this new location on 6 June.

(d) The Indonesian battalion occupies a sector about 13 kilometres long from a line east of the northern end of Great Bitter Lake in the north to a line east of its mid-point. The battalion is manning a forward command post and eight outposts in its sector. The base camp is located in Suez.

(e) The Ghanaian battalion occupies a sector about 15 kilometres long from a line east of the mid-point of Great Bitter Lake in the north to the Giddi Road in the south, inclusive. The battalion is manning a forward command post and 10 outposts in its sector. The base camp is located in Fanara on the western shore of the Great Bitter Lake.

(f) The Senegalese battalion occupies a sector about 26 kilometres long from (but not including) the Giddi Road in the north to a line due east of Suez city in the south; the battalion is manning a forward command post and 11 outposts in its sector. The base camp is located in Suez.

(g) The Finnish battalion occupies a sector about 20 kilometres long from a line east of Suez city in the north to the Gulf of Suez in the south. The battalion is manning a forward command post and 12 outposts in its sector. The base camp is located in Suez.

(h) The Austrian rear party remains temporarily in Suez; rear parties of the Peruvian and Irish battalions and of headquarters Northern Brigade are still located in the Rabah area.

13. The Indonesian battalion is maintaining a company in the UNEF camp in Ismailia for security duties. The Ghanaian battalion provides a company for security duties relating to the headquarters and logistics elements still remaining in Cairo.

14. The Canadian and Polish logistics elements have commenced a long-term move of the logistics base from Cairo to Ismailia. The move of the Polish contingent is to be completed by mid-July, and that of the Canadian contingent by the end of August.

15. The move of the major part of UNEF headquarters from Cairo to Ismailia is now planned for the first week of July. As mentioned in my last report, premises, a liaison staff and an alternative office for the Force Commander will be maintained in Cairo.

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Activities of the Force

16. The Force continues the manning, patrolling and control of the zone of disengagement and conducts weekly inspections of the Israeli and Egyptian areas of limited armaments and forces, as well as inspections of other areas agreed by the parties.

17. The operation for the recovery of bodies of soldiers killed during the hostilities in the Suez Canal area (see S/11248/Add.2, para. 14) recommenced on 20 May and continued to 31 May. A second round of searches commenced on 12 June and is scheduled to end 21 June. The search and recovery is carried out by teams from the Nepalese battalion, accompanied by representatives of the parties, and is co-ordinated by a representative of UNEF headquarters. Bodies recovered have been turned over to the parties, and no major problems have been encountered to date.

18. On 20 May, Israel transferred to Egypt 26 civilian detainees and 27 family members; on 3 June, 14 civilian detainees and 15 family members were transferred from Israeli to Egyptian custody. On 21 May, 139 persons passed from Israel to Egypt and 73 from Egypt to Israel in a family reunification programme. These activities are arranged through the International Committee of the Red Cross and take place in the zone of disengagement under UNEF supervision.
