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

Establishment and Command of the Force

1. By its resolution 340 (1973) of 25 October 1973, the Security Council decided to set up immediately under its authority a United Nations Emergency Force, and by resolution 341 (1973) of 27 October it decided that the Force shall be established in accordance with the Secretary-General's report of the same date on the implementation of resolution 340 (1973) (S/11052/Rev.1).

2. On 25 October, the Secretary-General in a letter to the President of the Security Council proposed certain interim measures in order that the Emergency Force (UNEF) should reach the area as soon as possible, and the Council authorized the Secretary-General to proceed in accordance with his proposal.

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3. Accordingly, the Secretary-General immediately appointed
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Major-General Ensio Siilasvuo, the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, as the interim
Commander of UNEF. General Siilasvuo set up the provisional headquarters of the
Force in Cairo, staffed by a provisional headquarters staff consisting of personnel
from UNTSO.

Composition

4. The Secretary-General also arranged for military personnel of the contingents of Austria, Finland and Sweden serving with the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to proceed immediately, with the concurrence of the Governments of those three countries, to Egypt as the first elements of UNEF. The Government of Cyprus and the Governments of Greece and Turkey were consulted and raised no objections, subject to rapid replacement in Cyprus of the units transferred to UNEF. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland promptly made available, free of charge to the United Nations, aircraft of the Royal Air Force to transport the troops to Egypt.

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5. The first flight carrying 35 Finnish soldiers of UNFICYP, including the contingent Commander, left Cyprus at 1832 GMT on 26 October. On their arrival in Cairo they were received by General Siilasvuo who assumed command. The Emergency

Force was thus established. There followed within less than two hours flights carrying 27 Austrian and 40 Swedish officers and other ranks from UNFICYP, and flights continued thereafter at frequent intervals.

6. By 0600 GMT on 28 October, the strength of the Force was as follows:

Austria	166
Finland	215
Sweden	<u>204</u>
Total	<u>585</u>

In addition, 48 vehicles as well as other contingent freight and equipment totalling 443,591 lbs have been delivered in Cairo.

7. The Secretary-General has requested the three Governments to take urgent measures to bring their contingents up to the strength of an effective working battalion for the purposes of the United Nations Emergency Force.

8. At the request of the Secretary-General, the Government of Norway has offered to provide transport aircraft for the Swedish reinforcements. This service is being provided free of charge to the United Nations.

9. The Secretary-General has been in touch with the Government of Ireland with a view to having the personnel of the Irish contingent serving with UNFICYP transferred to UNEF very shortly.

10. As the members of the Security Council were informed on 27 October 1973, the Secretary-General has requested the Government of Canada to provide the logistic component of the Force.

11. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to all the Governments who have made this rapid initial establishment of the Force possible. He also wishes to take this opportunity to express his appreciation to those Governments who have offered contingents for the Force. As stated in his report to the Security Council (S/11052/Rev.1, paragraph 5 (d)), consultations are in progress on the further additions to the Force.

Deployment

12. The first advance party of 50 all ranks from the Finnish contingent established a United Nations presence in the Israel-controlled area west of Suez city on 27 October. The main body of Finnish troops was to be deployed in the area on 28 October.

13. In this area, at kilometre marker 109 on the Cairo-Suez road, a meeting took place on 27 October at 2340 GMT between high level military representatives of Egypt and Israel in the presence of UNEF representatives. UNEF was represented by the Commander of the Finnish contingent and an Irish officer from UNEF headquarters. The preliminary exchange of views covered matters relating to the observance of the cease-fire as well as humanitarian questions.

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14. The advance party of the Swedish contingent has arrived in Ismailia and will be reinforced shortly.

15. The Austrian contingent, now in Cairo, will be deployed in the Bitter Lakes area south of Ismailia as soon as the necessary logistic arrangements have been completed.

16. The Force Commander has initiated discussions at a high level with both parties, and co-ordination arrangements are being established with the Egyptian and Israel authorities.

17. In its activities, UNEF has enjoyed the full co-operation of the military observers of UNTSO, who have been operating patrols in the area. General Siilasvuo is ensuring that the operations of both organizations are co-ordinated.

Humanitarian activities

18. The Secretary-General's report as approved by the Council (S/11052/Rev.1, paragraph 2 (b)) requires the Force to "co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its humanitarian endeavours in the area". UNEF headquarters has established contact with Red Cross representatives for this purpose.

19. At the meeting referred to in paragraph 13 above, which was held on 27/28 October between Israeli and Egyptian officers in the presence of UNEF representatives, it was agreed that a convoy consisting of some 100 lorries driven in groups by UNEF military personnel would proceed from a point on the forward edge of the Egyptian line on the Cairo-Suez road through Israel held territory to a point on the western bank of the Suez Canal. The contents of each lorry would then be loaded into ferries or amphibious vehicles by a group of Egyptian soldiers crossing the Canal for this purpose unarmed. Members of the Israel forces would check the contents of the lorries at the loading point under UNEF and Red Cross supervision. UNEF personnel would also be stationed at the east bank of the Canal to supervise the unloading from ferries or amphibious vehicles.

20. In accordance with this agreement, a convoy comprising 125 lorries started in the morning of 28 October and reached the forward edge of the Egyptian line at 0657 GMT. At 0820 GMT hours the first group of 10 lorries with UNEF drivers proceeded through Israel held territory.

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21. The Secretary-General wishes to pay tribute to the interim Commander of the Force, General Siilasvuo, his staff, and to the officers and men of the Force, as well as to the Commander and personnel of UNFICYP, for the speed and efficiency with which they have carried out the first stages of the mandate entrusted to UNEF by the Security Council.
