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Further progress report of the Secretary-General
on the United Nations Emergency Force

Composition of the Force

1. On 10 January 1974, the strength of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), exclusive of headquarters staff, was as follows:

Austria	610
Canada	1,086
Finland	615
Ghana (evaluation team)	4
Indonesia	552
Ireland	269
Panama	409
Peru	497
Poland	821
Senegal (advance party)	47
Sweden	635
Total	5,545

2. As indicated by the above figures, the strength of the Force has increased by 2,979 since the circulation of the last report (S/11056/Add.6) on 24 November 1973. The following major movements have taken place since that date:

(a) Austrian contingent: 180 additional personnel arrived on 14 December 1973 by aircraft of the United States of America.

(b) Canadian contingent: 535 additional personnel arrived between 25 November and 6 December 1973 by aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

(c) Indonesian contingent: An advance party of 32 arrived on 2 December, and the main body of 516 all ranks between 21 and 27 December 1973 by aircraft of the United States of America.

(d) Panamanian contingent: The main body of the contingent, 436 all ranks, arrived on 11-12 December 1973 by aircraft of the United States of America.

(e) Peruvian contingent: The main body of the contingent, 446 all ranks, arrived between 25 November and 3 December 1973 by aircraft of the United States of America.

(f) Polish contingent: 612 additional personnel arrived between 25 November and 27 December 1973 by aircraft of the Polish Air Force.

(g) Senegalese contingent: An advance party of 50 all ranks arrived on 19 December 1973 by aircraft of the Federal Republic of Germany.

3. The body of the Senegalese contingent, 350 all ranks, is scheduled to arrive in the mission area during the third and fourth weeks of January 1974. The Ghanaian contingent, 500 all ranks, is expected during the same period. The Nepalese contingent, 570 all ranks, is expected to arrive between 3 and 9 February. Consultations are under way for the transport of the Kenyan contingent, approximately 600 all ranks, which is expected to begin before the end of January.

4. It will be recalled that in my report of 27 October 1973 (S/11052/Rev.1), which was approved by the Security Council on the same day in its resolution 341 (1973), I indicated that in order that UNEF might fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to it, it was considered necessary that it should have a total strength in the order of 7,000. Since it is planned to include 13 contingents in UNEF, it was my original intention to set a ceiling of about 600 all ranks for any one contingent. However, in view of the complexity of the logistics problem of UNEF and the decision of the Security Council to divide responsibilities in this regard between Canada and Poland, it has proved impossible to observe this ceiling with regard to the logistics support elements. The strength of the Canadian and Polish logistics components was determined after the most careful consideration by the Secretariat and experts from Canada and Poland.

Deployment

5. The following contingents have been deployed in operational positions supervising the cease-fire along the lines of confrontation of Egyptian and Israeli forces:

(a) Swedish battalion: Headquarters in Ismailia; is deployed in the northern sector, both west and east of the Suez Canal, north of Ismailia. The battalion also provides the Force Reserve and drivers for the UNEF convoy carrying non-military supplies to the Egyptian troops on the east bank of the Suez Canal.

(b) Austrian battalion: Headquarters in Ismailia; is deployed south of that town, west of the Canal. The battalion also provides drivers for the UNEF convoy.

(c) Finnish battalion: Headquarters in Suez city; is deployed south of the Cairo-Suez road, including the Suez city and Adabiya areas. The battalion also supervises the UNEF convoy, as well as the supply convoy for Suez city.

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(d) Irish battalion: Headquarters in Rabah; is deployed in the northern sector east of the Suez Canal, in the Kantara area.

(e) Panamanian battalion: Headquarters in Rabah; is carrying out reconnaissance of its future positions, which will be located in the central sector east of the Suez Canal, south of the Irish battalion area of responsibility.

(f) Peruvian battalion: Temporary headquarters at Rabah; will have its area of responsibility in the southern sector east of the Suez Canal, south of the Panamanian battalion.

(g) Indonesian battalion: Will be deployed west of the Suez Canal. Base camp being established at Ismailia.

(h) Senegalese battalion: Advance party carrying out preliminary reconnaissance for future operational assignment.

6. The Canadian logistics support element is manning supply, maintenance, communications and postal services throughout the mission area, as well as movement control units in Cairo, Alexandria and Lod. The Polish logistics support element is carrying out a number of logistics functions in Cairo and is providing drivers for UNEF transport. Reconnaissance and advance planning for the UNEF field hospital are also being carried out by personnel of the Polish contingent.

7. Brigadier-General Gastón Ibáñez, Commander of the Peruvian contingent, has been designated the Acting Force Commander while General Siilasvuo is in Geneva to preside over the meetings of the Military Working Group of the Peace Conference on the Middle East.

Implementation of the Agreement of 11 November 1973

8. During the period under review, two more meetings between General Gamasy, representing the Arab Republic of Egypt, and General Yaariv, representing Israel, were held on 26 and 29 November under the auspices of General Siilasvuo. The military representatives continued their talks on the modalities of implementation of paragraph B of the Agreement of 11 November 1973 (S/11056/Add.3, annex). The discussions did not achieve concrete results. However, the Force Commander remained in close contact with the parties.

9. Though efforts by the Force Commander to arrange for a resumption of the talks at kilometre 101 were not successful, it should be noted that the Military Working Group established by the Peace Conference on the Middle East in Geneva, under the chairmanship of General Siilasvuo, is dealing with the same subject. Meetings of the Military Working Group were held in Geneva on 26 and 28 December 1973 and on 2, 4, 7 and 9 January 1974.

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Situation relating to the implementation of the UNEF terms of reference

10. The Force is supervising the observance of the cease-fire and is using its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of the fighting. It is also co-operating with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its humanitarian endeavours in the area. The results of UNEF observations on the status of the cease-fire in the Egypt-Israel sector, incorporating also the reports of the military observers of UNTSO, are being circulated daily to the members of the Security Council in S/11057/Add. ... series.

11. The present situation in the sector, with troops of both parties deployed in close confrontation west and east of the Suez Canal, is unstable and potentially explosive. Moreover, the closeness of the confrontation, frequent firing incidents, some of them involving protracted artillery and tank fire exchanges, fortification activities and numerous minefields have so far made it difficult for UNEF to interpose its troops effectively between the two armies. It is to be hoped that a successful outcome of the military talks in Geneva will lead to a substantial measure of disengagement, and also facilitate the task of UNEF.

12. In the present circumstances, the efforts of UNEF to fulfil the tasks assigned to it by the Security Council frequently expose its personnel to danger, as indicated by the many incidents of firing at or close to UNEF personnel and positions listed in the reports on the status of the cease-fire in this sector. I wish once again to pay tribute to these soldiers of the United Nations for the courageous and effective way in which they have carried out their often hazardous duties. I also wish to express again my gratitude to the Governments providing contingents to UNEF and to those which have provided transport facilities and financial support.
