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

1. Since my last progress report of 28 January 1974 (S/11056/Add.9), the disengagement of forces, which began on 25 January, has progressed smoothly and, as indicated in the reports on the status of the cease-fire (S/11057/Add....), no incidents of major significance have occurred. To facilitate the discharge of UNEF's responsibilities under the disengagement agreement, the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo, and his senior assistants have maintained close contact and co-operation with the military authorities of Egypt and Israel.

2. On the west bank of the Suez Canal both Egyptian and Israeli troops have continued to redeploy, the former moving into areas previously vacated by the Israel forces to the north of the Suez-Cairo road and the latter moving northwards on schedule. Throughout this second phase UNEF units have been interposed and on 4 February began to move to an area further north, where they have taken up positions and started patrolling in a buffer area approximately 35 kilometres long and three kilometres deep. On 4 February at 1400 hours, 1/ a further area, south of the Little Bitter Lake, was handed over to UNEF by Israeli forces; the same area will be turned over by UNEF to the Egyptian forces on 5 February at 0400 hours.

3. On the east bank of the Suez Canal, Egyptian and Israeli forces commenced their redeployment on 28 January and on that day UNEF began to interpose troops in the southernmost part of the A Line (S/11198/Add.1). On 4 February at 1400 hours their redeployment in the southernmost sector was completed and at that time Israeli forces handed over to UNEF an area which is part of the zone of disengagement in which UNEF will be stationed pursuant to paragraph B-2 of the Agreement of 18 January 1974 (S/11198, annex).

4. On 5 February UNEF, with the assistance of UNTSO military observers and in the presence of the respective Egyptian and Israeli liaison officers, will inspect and verify the Egyptian and Israeli redeployment in the southernmost sector of the areas of limited armament and forces (ibid., paras. B-3 and 4). Its findings, as previously agreed by the parties, will be made available to them and will not be made public.

1/ All times GMT.

5. Some aspects of the operation are described hereunder:

(a) West bank:

(i) From 28 January to 4 February the Finnish battalion, with elements of the Swedish and Indonesian battalions, continued manning positions and patrolling to the north of the Suez-Cairo road. The same units will conduct similar tasks in the new buffer area south of the Little Bitter Lake during the next phase.

(ii) The forward UNEF headquarters which was established on 26 January moved to the new buffer area south of the Little Bitter Lake at 1500 hours on 4 February, and continues to function effectively (S/11056/Add.9, para. 2 (b)).

(b) East bank:

(i) The Panamanian battalion, deployed along the A Line in the southernmost sector, has commenced the marking of that line with Egyptian assistance.

(ii) Under UNEF supervision, UNTSO military observers, with the assistance of Israeli surveyors, completed the marking of the full length of the B Line on 2 February.

(iii) The Peruvian battalion commenced its deployment along the A Line in that sector at 0400 hours on 5 February.

6. Operation Omega, the search and recovery of bodies (S/11056/Add.9, para. 5), has progressed slowly, as certain difficulties and delays were encountered, particularly at the local commander level. As a result of a series of meetings between the parties in the presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNEF representatives, it is expected that the operation will now be expedited. According to UNEF records, 27 bodies have been returned to the Egyptian authorities and 21 to the Israeli authorities since 28 January.

7. On 3 February 1974, the strength of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was as follows:

Austria	600
Canada	1,097
Finland	640
Ghana	499
Indonesia	552
Ireland	271
Panama	409
Peru	497
Poland	820
Senegal	399
Sweden	620

Total 6,404
