



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/11056/Add.14  
16 March 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

1. On 15 March 1974, the strength of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), including UNEF headquarters and brigades headquarters staff, was as follows:

Austria	599
Canada	1,080
Finland	640
Ghana	496
Indonesia	551
Ireland	268
Nepal	571
Panama	408
Peru	356
Poland	825
Senegal	399
Sweden	621
Total	<u>6,814</u>

2. The decrease in the strength of the Force results from the repatriation on 14 March 1974 of the 139 members of a company of the Peruvian battalion, who are not going to be replaced.

Deployment

3. (a) Upon completion of the process of disengagement of forces on 4 March 1974, the UNEF forward headquarters established on 26 January 1974 to co-ordinate the implementation of the disengagement agreement of 18 January in its various phases (S/11056/Add.9, para. 2 (b)), was withdrawn and ceased to function.

74-06678

/...

(b) As announced in my last progress report (S/11056/Add.13, para. 6 (b) (iv)), the battalions from Ireland, Peru, Sweden, Indonesia, Senegal and Finland have been deployed as of 4 March in the UNEF zone of disengagement.

(c) The present deployment position of these battalions is as follows:

- (i) Irish battalion: Base camp at Rabah. It is manning eight outposts in the disengagement zone from the Mediterranean Sea to a line immediately south of Kantara.
- (ii) Peruvian battalion: Base camp at Rabah. It is manning ten outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector from the southern limit of the Irish battalion to a line directly east of Ismailia.
- (iii) Swedish battalion: Base camp at Ismailia. It is manning 14 outposts in the zone of disengagement, in a sector from the southern limit of the Peruvian battalion to a line east of Deversoir.
- (iv) Indonesian battalion: Base camp at Ismailia. It is manning 14 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector from the southern limit of the Swedish battalion to a line east of Kabrit.
- (v) Senegalese battalion: Base camp at Suez City. It is manning 12 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector from the southern limit of the Indonesian battalion to a line east of a point ten kilometres north of Suez.
- (vi) Finnish battalion: Base camp at Suez. It is manning 15 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector from the southern limit of the Senegalese battalion to the Gulf of Suez.

(d) The total strength of the six battalions deployed in the UNEF zone of disengagement is approximately 2,835 officers and other ranks. These are distributed between the manned positions in the zone and the base camps where, in accordance with normal military practice, they are assigned to local reserve functions and perform the necessary regimental, rotation and construction tasks. In addition to constant patrolling, the manned positions in the zone are maintained, of course, twenty-four hours a day, at an approximate aggregate strength of 1,300, a number that varies according to daily requirements and changes in the local situation. Because of the nature of the terrain of the zone, which is a desert area and contains no inhabited localities or even longitudinal roads, it would have been impractical to establish and maintain the base camps in the zone of disengagement itself.

4. The deployment situation of the other battalions of the Force is as follows:

- (a) Austrian battalion: In reserve in Ismailia.
- (b) Ghanaian battalion: In reserve in Cairo, Fayid and Fanara.
- (c) Nepalese battalion: In reserve in Cairo.
- (d) Panamanian battalion: In reserve in Rabah.
- (e) The Canadian and Polish logistic support elements continue to provide the logistic, engineering, transport and communications services to the Force.

#### Plan for deployment of additional battalions in the zone of disengagement

5. In order to permit the establishment of larger local reserves, and an increased rotation of personnel between operational areas and base camps, it is the intention of the Force Commander to deploy the Panamanian, Austrian and Ghanaian battalions into the UNEF zone of disengagement. Completion of this deployment is projected for the last week of March 1974. The Nepalese battalion, which arrived only recently in the UNEF mission area, will remain stationed at Shams Camp in Cairo pending the arrival of its vehicles and radio equipment.

6. In preparation for the implementation of this plan, the Austrian battalion will move its base camp from Ismailia to Suez and the Ghanaian battalion will move its elements, currently in Cairo, to Fayid. These preliminary moves will be completed by the end of March 1974.

7. Once these deployment plans are completed, the UNEF zone of disengagement will be occupied by the following contingents from north to south in this order: Irish, Panamanian, Peruvian, Swedish, Indonesian, Ghanaian, Senegalese, Austrian and Finnish. The sectors of deployment in the UNEF disengagement zone at present occupied by the six battalions mentioned in paragraph 3 above will be redistributed as necessary.

#### Activities

8. Survey of the A Line: Under UNEF supervision, UNTSO Military Observers, with the assistance of Egyptian army surveyors, are in the process of surveying and marking the A Line. The marking of the B Line was completed on 2 February 1974 (S/11056/Add.10; para. 5 (b) (ii)).

9. Observance of the cease-fire and implementation of the disengagement: During the period under review, no relevant violations have been observed. The only incidents observed by UNEF posts and patrols along the A and B Lines have been limited to minor and apparently accidental incursions by soldiers and civilians, who were escorted out to their respective areas by UNEF.

10. Inspections: Inspections of the areas of limited armaments and forces were carried out by UNEF on 6 and 13 March 1974, with the assistance of UNTSO Military Observers and in the presence of the respective Egyptian and Israeli liaison

/...

officers. The findings of the inspections were made available to the parties. The Force Commander plans to conduct similar inspections on a weekly basis, following the same procedure.

11. Search for mortal remains (Operation Omega): The operation for the recovery of bodies of soldiers killed during the hostilities in the Suez Canal area (S/11056/Add.9, para. 5) progresses satisfactorily. Ten teams are at present engaged in this task, four searching for Egyptian casualties and six for Israeli casualties. The search is scheduled to continue until 31 March 1974.

12. Hand-over of civilians: On 4 March 1974, in the presence of UNEF officers and of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 65 civilians were handed over by the Israeli to the Egyptian authorities, and two civilians were returned by the Egyptian to the Israeli authorities in the zone of disengagement. Also in the presence of UNEF officers and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 200 students crossed from Israeli-held territory into Egypt in the same place.

13. Casualties: Unmarked mine fields in the UNEF area of disengagement continue to pose a most serious hazard to UNEF troops. On 9 March 1974, one Peruvian soldier was killed and seven other members of the Peruvian battalion were injured, two of them seriously, in a mine accident which occurred when a group of Peruvian soldiers, while pitching a tent near the A Line, at a point some 18 kilometres north-east of Ismailia, struck an explosive device.

14. Mine clearing: To minimize the possibility of the recurrence of incidents and casualties of this type, the Polish engineering unit has continued its mine clearance activities in the UNEF zone of disengagement. At the same time, the Egyptian authorities have contributed roller tanks for the clearing of mines along the A Line. These operations are still continuing. The Israeli authorities have now also been requested to lend their assistance for mine-clearing operations along the B Line.