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FURTHER PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

1. Following my last progress report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (S/11310/Add.1), the Force continued to carry out its tasks in the process of disengagement of forces between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and completed that process on 25 June in accordance with the time-table agreed to between the parties in Geneva.

Composition

2. The composition of UNDOF, including headquarters, on 26 June was as follows:

Austria	498
Canada	157
Peru	346
Poland	85
Military observers (transferred from UNTSO)	89
Headquarters staff, including forward headquarters	<u>32</u>
Total	1,207

3. The Austrian battalion headquarters and the Polish transport and engineering elements are still in a camp in Kanakir, near the Syrian town of Saassa, 40 kilometres south-west of Damascus. It is intended to relocate these installations in the near future to another camp which is being provided by the Syrian army about 15 kilometres north-east of Quneitra. That location is nearer to the area of operations of the Austrian battalion. The Peruvian battalion base camp and the Canadian logistics company and signals elements are both situated in a camp now called Camp Bolivar, which is in Israeli-held territory a few kilometres south of Quneitra. The headquarters of UNDOF is still located in the UNTSO building in Damascus, and efforts are continuing to find more suitable quarters.

Deployment and activities

4. On the afternoon of 18 June, the Israeli forces handed over to UNDOF area No. 2A appearing on the disengagement map (which by agreement between the parties remains unpublished) signed in Geneva on 5 June 1974 (S/11302/Add.2), and UNDOF positioned its troops in that area, a 26-kilometre-long strip running from the east of Quneitra north to the Hermon range. On the next morning, 19 June, the Syrian army redeployed in area No. 2A, and the Israeli forces commenced redeployment in area No. 3A (east and north of Quneitra) and commenced thinning out in areas No. 3 (west, south-west and north of Quneitra) and No. 4B (covering the town of Quneitra and a 10-kilometre strip to the north). The next day, 20 June, UNDOF military observers carried out the inspection of forces in areas No. 2 (running west to east from the Jordan River north of Lake Tiberias to a line short of the Syrian village of Ankhul, excluding the UNDOF area of separation south of Quneitra; also the area directly east of the Hermon range), 4C (Mount Hermon) and 1A (east of area No. 2A from the latitude of Quneitra northward to AMR 2465-2935). 1/

5. On the afternoon of 23 June, the Israel forces handed over to UNDOF area No. 3A, east and north of Quneitra, bringing to an end the third phase of the disengagement. The fourth phase began on the next morning, 24 June, when that area came under Syrian administration. During 24 and 25 June, the Israel forces handed over to UNDOF the No. 4 areas, constituting the area of separation, which includes the towns of Quneitra and Rafid and part of Mount Hermon. Pursuant to an understanding between the parties, the inspection on 25 June was confined to the demilitarized area between lines A and A1, immediately west of Quneitra.

6. In the evening of 25 June, Syrian administration was established in the No. 4 areas.

7. On 26 June, the redeployment of forces in the areas of limited forces and armament (10-kilometre zone) was inspected, and, on 27 June, the 20-kilometre zones and 25-kilometre zones were inspected, thus completing the implementation of the time-table.

8. On the morning of 26 June, the UNDOF forward headquarters, having completed its role, was closed. It had occupied three successive locations as the disengagement progressed, the last being at a point east of Quneitra.

9. On 25, 26 and 27 June, at the request of the Syrian authorities and on the basis of an agreement reached through UNDOF headquarters with the Israeli authorities, a body of 500 Syrian soldiers equipped with mine-clearing tanks carried out mine-clearing operations, first in area No. 3A and later in areas No. 4B (see para. 4 above) and 4A (the town of Rafid and a 14-kilometre strip to the south). That operation was closely supervised by UNDOF observers. A small forward headquarters was set up in the field to control the operation.

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1/ AMR - approximate map reference (Palestine grid).

10. Delineation and marking on the ground of line A has been completed with the assistance of the Israeli authorities. In co-operation with the Syrian authorities, the process of delineation of line B is in progress, and the marking of the line on the ground will commence in the next few days.

11. Both sides extended full co-operation, which enabled the process of disengagement to be completed smoothly.

12. The disengagement process was marred by a serious accident during its last phase. Early on the morning of 25 June, four Austrian soldiers were killed when their vehicle ran over a mine on a road close to Mount Hermon. A fifth Austrian soldier in the vehicle was injured, but not seriously, and is now recovering satisfactorily. A board of inquiry has been set up to investigate and report on the circumstances of the accident.

13. In this connexion, intensive measures have been taken by UNDOF, with the full co-operation of the parties, to protect its soldiers from mine explosions. Information and maps of mine fields have been made available to UNDOF by the parties concerned, in accordance with an agreement reached in Geneva in the Military Working Group. As indicated in paragraph 9 above, Syrian soldiers are carrying out mine-clearing operations in certain areas involved in the disengagement. Furthermore, a Polish unit is engaged in mine-clearing operations in the perimeters of UNDOF installations. However, it is realized that operational conditions in the area are such that accidents are sometimes unavoidable. Therefore, the Secretary-General has instructed UNDOF to examine any additional measures which may be taken to minimize the likelihood of such incidents.

14. The situation in the area remains calm.

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