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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

(for the period 13 April to 15 July 1975)

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MAP. UNEF DEPLOYMENT AS OF 1 JULY 1975

INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the activities of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for the period 13 April to 15 July 1975. The purpose of this report is to provide the Security Council with a comprehensive description of the activities of UNEF in pursuance of the mandate laid down by the Council in its resolutions 340 (1973) and 341 (1973) of 25 and 27 October 1973 and extended by its resolutions 346 (1974) of 8 April 1974, 362 (1974) of 23 October 1974 and 368 (1975) of 17 April 1975.

2. Since my last report (S/11670 of 12 April 1975), the situation in the UNEF area of operations has remained stable and the Force has continued efficiently to carry out its assigned tasks.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

3. As of 15 July 1975, UNEF personnel strength was as follows:

Canada	831
Finland	494
Ghana	499
Indonesia	448
Poland	789
Senegal	400
Sweden	458
	<u>3,919</u>

The strength figures for the Canadian and Polish logistic components assigned to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) are not included in the above table. Also not included are 10 officers on loan from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) who are filling various liaison and staff officer positions within UNEF.

4. Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo has continued to be the Commander of UNEF.

B. Deployment

5. During the period under review, the deployment of UNEF has, with minor exceptions, remained unchanged. As of 1 July 1975, this deployment (see attached map) was as follows:

(a) Swedish battalion: Base camp at El Nagila, east of Rabah. It is manning a forward command post and 20 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector that stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to a line north-east of Ismailia.

(b) Indonesian battalion: Base camp at Suez. It is manning a forward command post and 13 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector that

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stretches from the southern limits of the Swedish sector to a line east of the northern tip of Great Bitter Lake.

(c) Ghanaian battalion: Base camp at Fayid-Fanara. It is manning a forward command post and 13 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector that stretches from the southern limits of the Indonesian sector to a line east of the southern end of Great Bitter Lake.

(d) Senegalese battalion: Base camp at Suez. It is manning a forward command post and 12 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector that stretches from the southern limits of the Ghanaian sector to a line north-east of Suez.

(e) Finnish battalion: Base camp at Suez. It is manning a forward command post and 21 outposts in the zone of disengagement in a sector that stretches from the southern limits of the Senegalese sector to the Gulf of Suez, south-east of Suez city.

(f) Canadian contingent: The Canadian contingent is located at the Ismailia airfield camp (El Gala Camp). It provides logistics and communications support to the Force and has supporting detachments spread throughout the UNEF area of operations.

(g) Polish contingent: The Polish contingent shares El Gala Camp with the Canadian contingent. It provides engineering and transport support to the Force and operates a field hospital for the Force, which is located in Ismailia.

(h) UNEF headquarters: The headquarters of the Force is accommodated in buildings in Ismailia. A UNEF office is maintained in Rabah under the command of the Swedish battalion commander. In addition, liaison offices are maintained in Cairo and Jerusalem.

(i) Miscellaneous elements: Other UNEF elements are located as follows:

- (i) Movement control detachments in Alexandria, Cairo, Tel Aviv, Beirut and Damascus.
- (ii) A ration depot in Cairo, with a detachment in Suez.
- (iii) A Polish transport detachment in Suez.
- (iv) An air transport unit located at Ismailia airfield. It operates two Buffalo aircraft. In addition, the Fokker F-27 aircraft provided by the Government of Switzerland for UNTSO is made available to UNEF as occasion requires.

C. Rotation

6. The following personnel rotations took place during the period under review:

(a) Canadian contingent: Personnel are rotated in small groups on a weekly basis. During the period, 452 personnel were rotated.

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(b) Finnish contingent: Personnel are rotated in small groups at regular intervals. During the period, 255 personnel were rotated.

(c) Ghanaian contingent: The entire contingent will be rotated in August 1975, having served with UNEF since February 1975.

(d) Indonesian contingent: The entire contingent was rotated in July 1975, having served with UNEF since September 1974.

(e) Polish contingent: The entire contingent was rotated during the period from 15 May to 30 June 1975, having served with UNEF since December 1974.

(f) Senegalese contingent: The entire contingent will be rotated in August 1975, having served with UNEF since February 1975.

(g) Swedish contingent: The entire contingent was rotated in June 1975, having served with UNEF since December 1974.

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodations

7. In base camps, good progress continues to be made with the acquisition of furniture and equipment. In addition, a plan has been made to replace the unsatisfactory tented kitchen facilities with prefabricated structures complete with concrete floors. The outposts in the zone of disengagement are continuously being improved, and a programme to construct protective shelters is well under way.

B. Logistics

8. The problem of shortages of equipment and vehicle spare parts has lessened considerably since my last report. This is due in part to the clearance of large backlogs at various ports of entry and to the fact that material ordered up to a year ago is now arriving in the area. The lengthy period that elapses between the ordering of an item and its arrival continues to cause difficulties. The lack of standardization in the vehicle fleet is also a problem, but a project to overcome it is now under way.

9. The reopening of the Suez Canal has made it necessary to rearrange the system of transporting supplies across the Canal from the base camps to the troops in the Sinai. I am confident that with the co-operation of the Egyptian authorities, suitable arrangements will continue to be worked out to enable UNEF to maintain this essential service.

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III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

10. The functions and guidelines of the Force, as well as the specific tasks assigned to it, as defined in my report of 12 October 1974 (S/11536, paras. 23 and 24), remain unchanged.

11. The Force Commander has continued the practice of separate meetings with military representatives of Egypt and Israel concerning the implementation of the terms of reference of the Force and the inspections carried out by UNEF in the areas of limited forces and armaments. Close contact and liaison have also been maintained with the military liaison staffs of Egypt and Israel. These relations have been cordial and productive.

B. Freedom of movement

12. The problem of restrictions on the freedom of movement of personnel of certain contingents still exists, despite my efforts and those of the Force Commander. I remain of the opinion that UNEF must function as an "integrated and efficient military unit", that its contingents must serve on an equal basis under the command of the Force Commander and that no differentiation can be made regarding the United Nations status of various contingents. I will continue my efforts to achieve this objective.

C. Personnel matters

13. The general discipline, understanding and bearing of all members of UNEF has been exemplary, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents.

14. During the period under review, four members of UNEF died in accidents. Two members of the Polish contingent were killed in a vehicle accident on 19 May 1975. One member of the Ghanaian contingent died as a result of burns on 7 June. One member of the Canadian contingent was killed in a fall on 14 June.

D. Observance of the cease-fire and implementation of the Disengagement Agreement

15. UNEF continues to assist in the observance of the cease-fire and disengagement agreements. It controls entry to the zone of disengagement through a network of manned observation posts and mobile patrols, keeping the forces of the two parties separated. In addition, it conducts weekly inspections of the limited forces areas (LFA) and bi-weekly inspections of the 30-kilometre zones with the assistance of UNTSO military observers. The Force Commander has continued to lend his assistance and good offices when one of the parties raises questions concerning the observance of the agreed limitations on armaments and forces.

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16. During the period under review, there were no significant violations of the agreements. Limited penetrations of the zone of disengagement were made by both parties by aircraft and by personnel on foot and in vehicles. Most of those penetrations were rectified immediately. Several minor cases of firing have occurred in the area of UNEF outposts and patrols. No casualties or damage resulted from those incidents.

E. Negotiations and agreements

17. The Force Commander and his staff have continued their active role, within the context of the UNEF mandate, in meetings and discussions, as well as in the implementation of agreements reached by the parties in matters pertaining to the cease-fire, disengagement of forces and humanitarian questions.

IV. HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

18. UNEF has maintained close contact with ICRC representatives and has extended its assistance in the family reunification and student exchange programmes, which continue to function satisfactorily. During the period under review, 1,519 persons crossed from Egypt to Israeli-occupied territory, and 665 from Israeli-occupied territory to Egypt. The transfer of three bodies was arranged. The transfer of items such as 26,000 kilograms of school-books was also conducted under UNEF auspices.

19. Although search operations for the remains of soldiers killed during the October 1973 hostilities in the Suez Canal area terminated on 1 July 1974, bodies are still occasionally discovered in the UNEF area of operations. During the period under review, the remains of two soldiers were found and turned over to the parties.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

20. It will be recalled that, by its resolution 3211 B (XXIX), the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNEF and UNDOF at a rate not to exceed \$6,666,667 per month for the period from 25 April to 31 October 1975, inclusive, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond 24 April 1975. At its 1821st meeting on 17 April 1975, the Council, by its resolution 368 (1975), decided to renew the mandate of UNEF until 24 July 1975.

21. It has thus far been possible to keep the rate of obligations and expenditures within the level of the authorizations provided by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Secretary-General believes that, should the Council decide to continue UNEF beyond 24 July 1975, the costs for the contemplated period of extension will remain within the level of the authorization to enter into

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commitments provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 3211 B (XXIX), assuming continuance of the existing responsibilities and conditions under which UNEF operates. As this General Assembly authorization extends to 31 October 1975 only, appropriate financial provisions will need to be made by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session in respect of periods after 31 October 1975, if UNEF is continued beyond that date.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

22. In deciding in its resolution 368 (1975) to renew the mandate of UNEF for a further period of three months until 24 July 1975, the Security Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested me to submit to it, at the end of that period, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

23. In my last report on UNDOF (S/11694), I indicated that efforts had been made on several levels to advance the implementation of resolution 338 (1973) and that I myself had lost no opportunity, in my contacts with the parties and with other Governments, to try to contribute to this process.

24. These efforts have continued since that time. In particular, high-level meetings among those concerned, including the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, were held recently. I am not in a position, at this stage, to inform the Security Council of the results of these efforts.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

25. During the period under review, the situation in the UNEF area of operations has remained quiet. Both sides have continued to comply with the Egyptian-Israeli Agreement on the Disengagement of Forces of 18 January 1974 and to extend their co-operation to UNEF in the performance of its tasks. The cease-fire has been maintained, and there have been no significant violations.

26. Pending the conclusion of an over-all settlement, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be fundamentally unstable. The possibility of maintaining the present quiet will depend on the further progress of the search for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem, as called for by the Security Council.

27. I consider the continued presence of UNEF to be essential not only to maintain quiet in the Egyptian-Israeli sector but also to provide an atmosphere conducive to further efforts towards the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to assist, if required, in such further efforts. The Government of Egypt has informed me that while Egypt "does not consent to further renew the mandate of UNEF, she is not against the proper use of the Force". Egypt's views are set out in detail in a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Ismael Fahmy, dated 14 July 1975. I

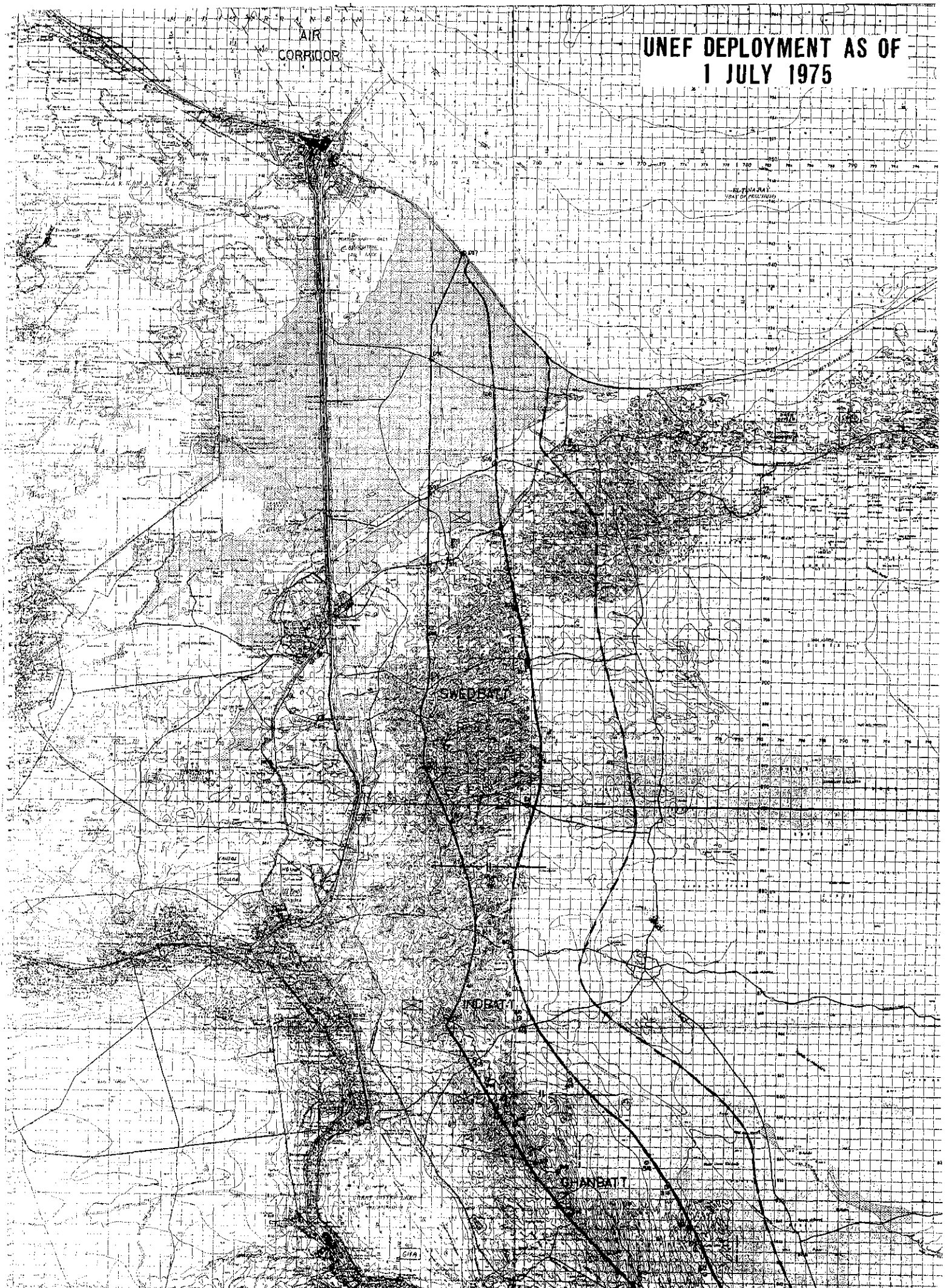
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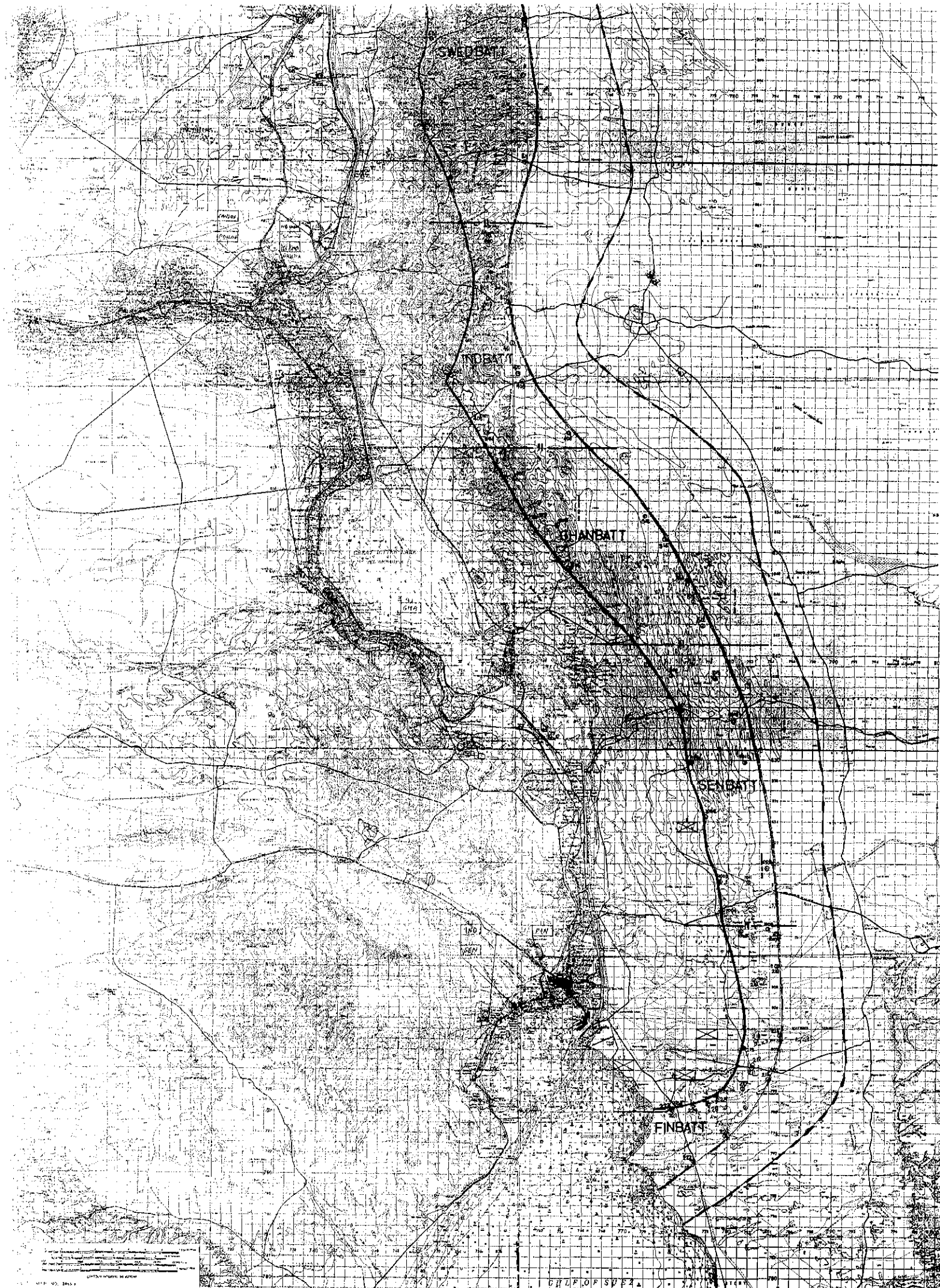
received this letter on 15 July, and it has been circulated as document S/11757. The Government of Israel has informed me that it favours a further extension of the mandate of UNEF for six months.

28. In concluding this report, I wish to place on record my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNEF. I wish also to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Commander of the Force, Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo, to its officers and men and its civilian staff, as well as to the military observers of UNTSO who co-operate with and assist UNEF in the fulfilment of its tasks. They have performed their difficult and important duties with exemplary devotion and efficiency.

AIR
CORRIDOR

UNEF DEPLOYMENT AS OF
1 JULY 1975





Scale 1:50,000
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator
Datum: Indian 1960
Units: Meters

GULF OF SUEZ