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Security Council

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

(for the period 21 May 1981-20 November 1981)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report describes the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 21 May 1981 to 20 November 1981. Its purpose is to provide the Security Council with an account of the activities of UNDOF in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to it by the Council in resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and extended by resolutions 363 (1974) of 29 November 1974, 369 (1975) of 28 May 1975, 381 (1975) of 30 November 1975, 390 (1976) of 28 May 1976, 398 (1976) of 30 November 1976, 408 (1977) of 26 May 1977, 420 (1977) of 30 November 1977, 429 (1978) of 31 May 1978, 441 (1978) of 30 November 1978, 449 (1979) of 30 May 1979, 456 (1979) of 30 November 1979, 470 (1980) of 30 May 1980, 481 (1980) of 26 November 1980 and 485 (1981) of 22 May 1981.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

A. Composition and command

2. The composition of UNDOF as of 20 November 1981 was as follows:

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Austria	527
Canada	219
Finland	39 3
Poland	126
United Nations military observers (detailed	
from UNTSO)	12

3. In addition to the above, observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assigned to the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission assist UNDOF as occasion requires.

4. Command of the Force continues to be exercised by Major-General Erkki R. Kaira.

B. Deployment

5. UNDOF personnel remain deployed within and close to the area of separation, with base camps and logistic units located nearby; UNDOF headquarters is located in Damascus. The UNDOF deployment as of 20 November 1981 is shown on the attached map.

6. At present, the Austrian battalion mans 18 positions and 7 outposts and conducts 15 patrols daily and 13 other patrols at irregular intervals in the area of separation north and inclusive of the Damascus-Quneitra road. The Finnish

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battalion mans 15 positions and 2 outposts and conducts 13 patrols daily and another 6 patrols at irregular intervals in the area of separation south of the Damascus-Quneitra road.

7. The Austrian battalion base camp is located near Wadi Faouar, 8 kilometres east of the area of separation. The Finnish battalion base camp is located near the village of Ziouani, west of the area of separation. The Austrian battalion continues to share its base camp with the Polish logistic unit, and the Finnish battalion shares Camp Ziouani with the Canadian logistic company. The Canadian signal unit has detachments at Camps Ziouani and Faouar, as well as at Damascus and Quneitra. Military police detachments are located in Damascus, Tiberias and Camp Ziouani.

C. Rotation

8. The Austrian contingent carried out partial rotations on 4 June, 1 September and 10 September. The Finnish contingent rotated on 11 June and 27 August. The Polish logistic unit rotated on 2, 3, 12 and 13 June. The Canadian logistic unit rotates in small groups every two or three weeks.

D. <u>Discipline</u>

9. The discipline, understanding and steadfastness of all members of the Force have been of a high order, reflecting credit on the soldiers and their commanders, as well as on the countries contributing contingents to the Force.

E. Casualties

10. During the period covered by this report, one member of UNDOF was killed in a motorcycle accident while on leave. Two other soldiers were injured in a mine explosion on Mount Hermon.

II. ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Accommodation

11. Living and working conditions of Force personnel continue to be improved. Austrian battalion medical care shelter was completed in September 1981. Improvement of the water system in Camp Faouar was completed in August 1981. The UNDOF Vehicle Workshop Centre is progressing well and should be completed by the end of February 1982. The replacement of the old prefabricated buildings has started.

B. Logistic support

12. Second- and third-line logistic support continues to be provided by the Canadian and Polish logistic units. The Damascus international airport continues to serve as the UNDOF airhead for rotation and supply flights. The ports of Latakia and Tartous are used for sea shipments. An air movement control organizaton operates in Damascus, and sea shipments are handled by local agents. In-theatre air support is provided by UNTSO on special request.

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13. Work is continuing on determining appropriate second-line stock levels of various commodities. The object of this project is to streamline the supply system and, in so doing, improve service to units and cost-effectiveness. Storage facilities are also being improved.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

A. Functions and guidelines

14. The functions and guidelines of UNDOF, as well as its tasks, remain as outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 27 November 1974 (S/11563, paras. 8-10).

15. UNDOF has continued, with the co-operation of the parties, to fulfil the tasks entrusted to it. This has been facilitated by the close contact maintained by the Force Commander and his staff with the military liaison staffs of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

B. Freedom of movement

16. The Protocol to the Agreement on Disengagement provides for all contingents to operate with full freedom of movement. However, the problem of restrictions on the freedom of movement still exists. The Secretary-General will continue to exert all possible efforts to correct this situation.

C. Maintenance of the cease-fire

17. UNDOF continues to supervise the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The cease-fire has been maintained during the period under review. No complaints concerning the UNDOF area of operations have been lodged by either party in this respect.

D. Supervision of the Agreement on Disengagement with regard to the areas of separation and limitation

18. UNDOF continues to supervise the area of separation to ensure, in accordance with its mandate, that there are no military forces within it. This is carried out by means of static positions and observation posts, which are manned 24 hours a day, and by foot and mobile patrols operating at irregular intervals on pre-determined routes by day and night. In addition, temporary outposts are established from time to time to perform specific tasks, such as traffic control. The ability of UNDOF to supervise the area by night has been enhanced further by the acquisition of additional night observation devices.

19. The safety of Syrian shepherds who graze their flocks close to and west of the A line continues to be of concern to UNDOF. The intensified patrolling on new mine-cleared patrol paths and, from time to time, the establishment of standing patrols in these areas have helped to prevent incidents. In addition, a grazing security fence which has now been erected over some 8,500 metres in the southern part of the area of separation has proved to be effective in reducing the number of incidents.

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20. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement on Disengagement, UNDOF continues to conduct fortnightly inspections of armament and forces in the areas of limitation. These inspections are carried out with the assistance of liaison officers from the parties, who accompany the UNDOF inspection teams. UNDOF also lends its assistance and good offices on request from the parties. In carrying out its tasks, UNDOF has continued to receive the co-operation of both parties, although restrictions of movement and inspection are sometimes placed on UNDOF teams in certain areas by both sides. UNDOF has continued to seek the lifting of these restrictions so as to guarantee its freedom of access to all locations on both sides.

E. Mines

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21. Mines continue to poase a threat to members of the Force and to the local population. Incidents occurred in the Mount Hermon area between 25 June and 11 August 1981, including one that caused injuries (see para. 10). This is a matter of concern to UNDOF and the Force Commander is continuing his efforts in consultation with the parties to make the area safe from mines. During the period, the three Polish mine-clearing teams have cleared 17,345 metres of patrol paths, 11,800 metres of tracks or roads, and 9,220 metres for living areas at bases in the area of separation. In the process, 11 artillery shells, 4 anti-tank mines, 5 anti-personnel mines and 4 hand grenades were destroyed.

F. Humanitarian activities

22. UNDOF has continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with facilities for family reunions and student exchanges. Both parties continue to co-operate with UNDOF in making the family meetings possible, in accordance with the agreed procedures.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

23. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report of 23 October 1981 to the General Assembly (A/36/600, para. 9), the cost of UNDOF beyond 30 November 1981, should the Security Council renew its mandate beyond that date, and assuming continuance of its existing strength and responsibilities, are estimated at \$2,667,333 gross (\$2,655,833 net) per month.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973)

24. In deciding in its resolution 485 (1981) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, the Security Council also called upon all the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit at the end of the period a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution.

25. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement Security Council

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resolution 338 (1973) have been dealt with in the Secretary-General's report on the Middle East problem (A/36/655-S/14746), submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/207 and 16 December 1980. The Secretary-General has continued to maintain contacts on the matter with the parties and interested Governments.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

26. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the Security Council and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the parties. During the period under review, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet, and there have been no serious incidents.

27. Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I continue to hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

28. In the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 31 May 1982. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

29. In concluding the present report, I wish, once again, to express my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those which provide UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Major-General Erkki Kaira, Commander of the Force, to the officers and men of the Force, to its civilian staff, as well as to the UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF. They have performed with exemplary efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council.

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