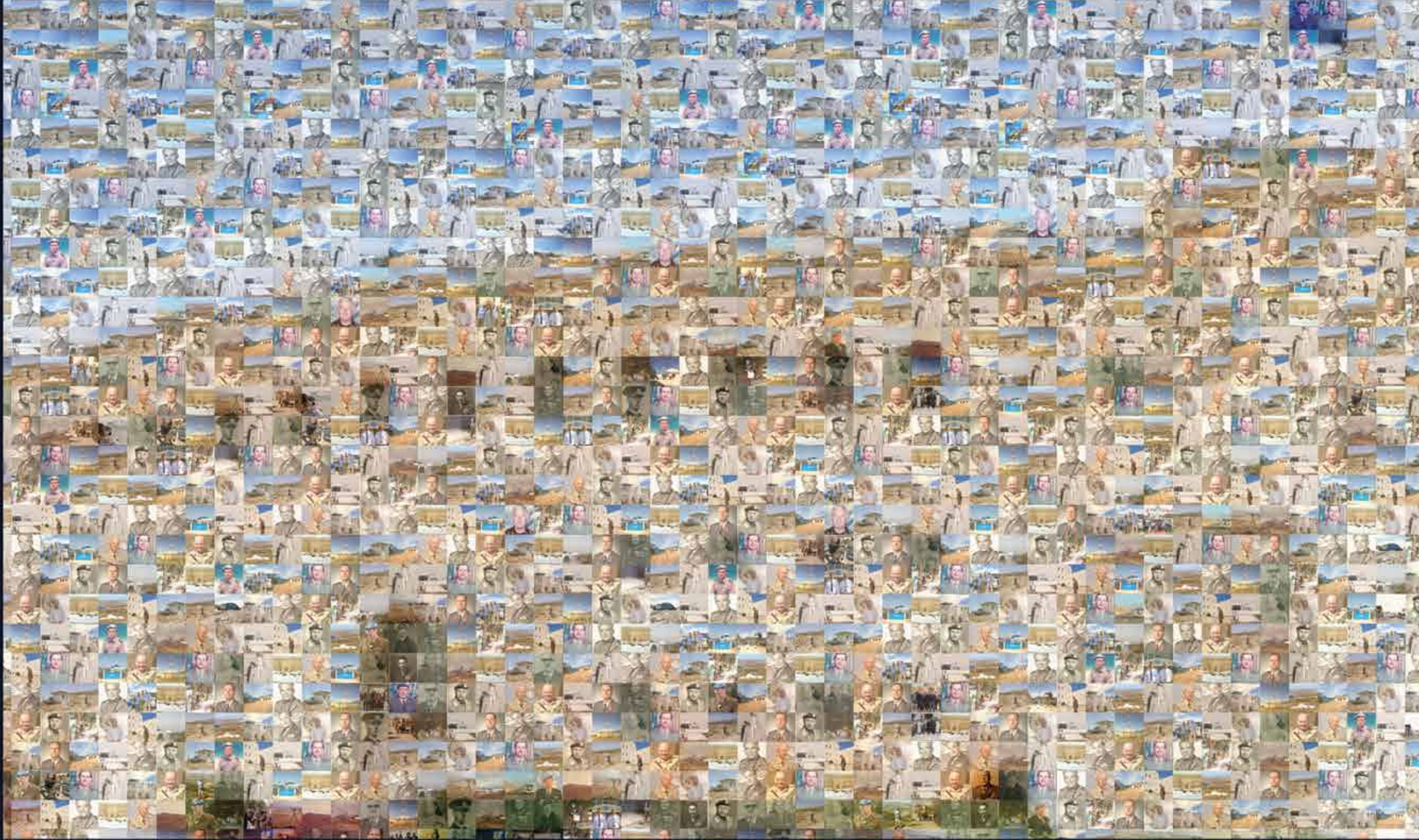




UNTSO 75TH ANNIVERSARY



UNTSO 75TH ANNIVERSARY
(1948-2023)



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UNITED NATIONS
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

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UNTSO 75TH ANNIVERSARY (1948-2023)
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UNITED NATIONS
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

75TH
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FOREWORD

United Nations Peacekeeping began with a historic decision by the Security Council on 29 May 1948 to deploy military observers to the Middle East to supervise the cessation of hostilities in the region. This first ever peacekeeping operation, known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), continues its work today alongside 11 other missions, operating in some of the world's most fragile political and security situations.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping, we pay tribute to the more than two million men and women who have served with courage across all our missions over the decades to support political settlements, prevent violence, protect civilians, promote human rights, and build sustainable peace. Their service and sacrifice have helped to save and change lives for the better.

I thank the authors of this book for sharing with us the immense contribution of peacekeepers who have served with distinction in UNTSO, past and present. These images demonstrate the tangible value and impact of United Nations peacekeeping in building a better future for all the communities that we serve.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Department of Peace Operations



FOREWORD

This Book is a visual testimony of UNTSO since its establishment in 1948. As the first and long-standing United Nations peacekeeping mission, the 75th anniversary of UNTSO is an important milestone for the United Nations, for the Parties, and for peacekeepers.

The Mission remains committed to the one goal of keeping the military demarcation lines calm, to allow the Parties to achieve a long-lasting peace for the benefit of the societies and populations in the region.

In this pictorial representation, the reader will gain an insight of UNTSO's historic moments in time, while highlighting the excellent cooperation with the Parties to the conflict, adaptation to changes in the region while maintaining the continuous focus on its mandated goal. During its lifetime, UNTSO has witnessed the establishment of UNDOF and UNIFIL, which it has supported and continues to work alongside for the implementation of their mandates.

In commemorating 75 years of peacekeeping in UNTSO, I want to acknowledge all those men and women who sacrificed time away from their families and friends during one or more years in UNTSO, while especially pay tribute to the military observers and civilian staff who made the ultimate sacrifice.

UNTSO will continue its mission until there is a lasting peace.

Major General Patrick Gauchat
Head of Mission and Chief of Staff
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization



MANDATE

UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

First in peace

(Since 29 May 1948)

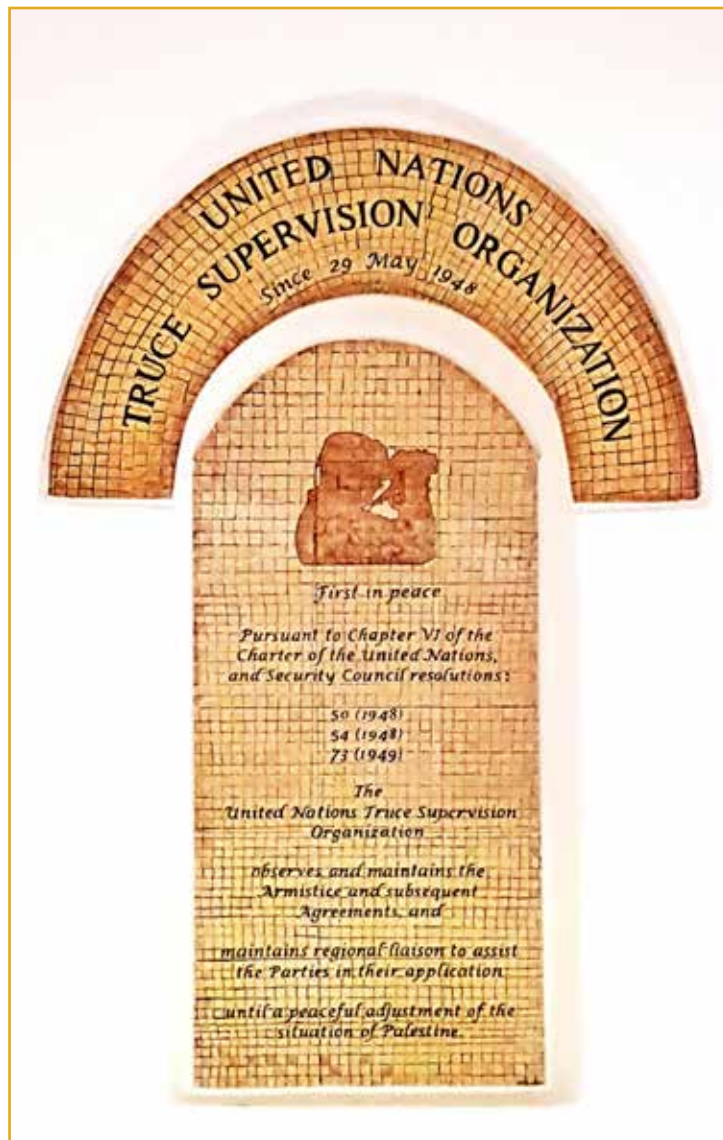
Pursuant to Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations,
and Security Council resolutions:

50 (1948)

54 (1948)

73 (1949)

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
observes and maintains the Armistice and subsequent Agreements,
and maintains regional liaison to assist the Parties in their
application, until a peaceful adjustment of the situation of Palestine.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In 1916, Britain and France, with the assent of Russia and Italy, entered into the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement, dividing up the Levant into mutually agreed spheres of influence and control in anticipation of an eventual partition of the Ottoman Empire. On 2 November 1917, the British Foreign Secretary announced the Balfour Declaration, the British Government's statement of support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

In December 1917, after about 400 years of Ottoman rule, Jerusalem was surrendered to British armed forces and, on 30 October 1918, the Ottoman Empire capitulated to the Allies, ending its involvement in the First World War. In November 1918, the lands of the Ottoman Empire in the Levant were partitioned into "occupied enemy territory administrations" – the British Mandate for Palestine, and the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon.

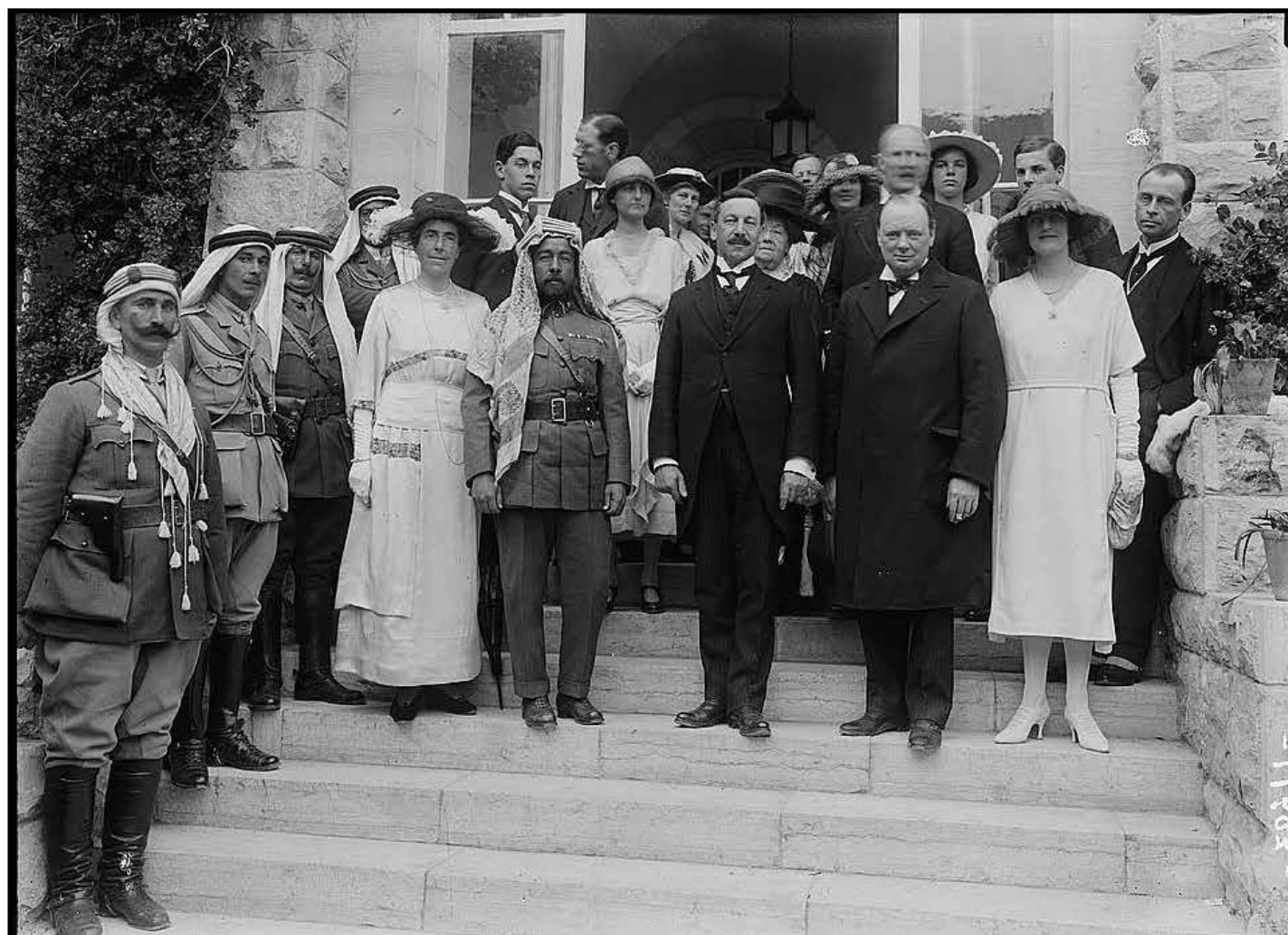
In July 1920, British military control of Palestine was replaced by a civilian administration, headed by a High Commissioner. The British Mandate for Palestine, a legal commission of the League of Nations, came into effect on 29 September 1923, formalizing British administration of the territory. Also in 1923, Britain and France entered into the Paulet-Newcombe Agreement, or the British-French Boundary Agreement, which, to this day, legally defines the border between Israel and Lebanon.

In the aftermath of the Second World War, Britain's control of Palestine was waning, with great loss of life and huge financial costs, to the rising nationalism of the Jewish insurgency and the Arab revolt. Consequently, Britain announced it would unilaterally terminate its Mandate for Palestine, to be effective midnight of 14 May 1948, and referred the issue of Palestine to the newly created United Nations.

The UN General Assembly Resolution 181(II) (29 November 1947) set out the partition plan with a state for the Jewish people, a state for the Arab people, and Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under a Special International Regime.

Israel declared its independence the day after the termination of the British Mandate for Palestine, and the First Arab-Israeli War ensued. Five days later, on 20 May 1948, the UN appointed Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte the 'United Nations Mediator in Palestine', the first official mediator in UN history. Five months later, on 17 September 1948, Count Bernadotte was assassinated, together with Colonel André Sérot of the French forces serving with the UN, by members of Lehi, a Zionist paramilitary group more commonly known as the Stern Gang.

Between late February and mid-July 1949, Armistice Agreements were signed between Israel and each of Egypt (24 February), Lebanon (23 March), Jordan (3 April) and Syria (20 July), ending the First Arab-Israeli War. The role of the Mediator supposedly complete, the functions associated with monitoring and implementing the Armistice Agreements, including the Armistice Lines, were transferred to the United Nations Truce Supervision



Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, visit to the British High Commission, Jerusalem, 1921

Organization in Palestine (UNTSO).

Acting under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, and “subject to further decision by the Security Council or the General Assembly,...until a peaceful adjustment of the future situation of Palestine is reached” (UNSC resolution 54), the Security Council mandated UNTSO with “observing and maintaining the cease-fire, and as may be necessary in assisting the parties to the Armistice Agreements in the supervision of the application and observance of the terms of those Agreements” (UNSC resolution 73).

For 75 years, UNTSO has been first in peace – the first UN peacekeeping mission, the first to respond when, after the 1956 Suez Crisis, or the Second Arab-Israeli War, the UN created the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), where UNTSO formed the vanguard and core of the military component. First after the 1967 Six-Day War (the Third Arab-Israeli War), when Israel captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan. First after the 1973 Yom Kippur War (the Fourth Arab-Israeli War), when the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) was initially staffed by UNTSO. And in 1978, when Israel withdrew following its invasion of southern Lebanon, followed by the creation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), where again UNTSO formed the advance force. UNTSO has also supported UN operations across the globe, setting the standard for, and providing, military observers, from Afghanistan to Yemen, in Libya, with the OPCW-UN Joint Mission to oversee and verify the timely elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons, and other missions where the United Nations has recognized the value of, and deployed, military observers.

UNTSO welcomed and championed the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and the 1994 Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan, as proof that the transformation of cease-fires into peaceful



UNTSO military observers in Ramallah, 1948



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Israel Mixed Armistice Commission, 1949

relations is exclusively for the parties to the conflict. In that spirit, UNTSO continues to provide space for the remaining parties to the 1949 Armistice Agreements and subsequent agreements, to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, through:

- the deployment of expert military observers to provide credible and impartial observation and reporting for UNDOF and UNIFIL mandate implementation, preventing the escalation of hostilities, and strengthening confidence of and among the parties; and
- proactive regional liaison, enhancing accessibility of the parties, increasing access to and analysis of information and trends, and improving cooperation and coordination within the regional United Nations presence.

For 75 years, UNTSO has symbolized the legitimacy and commitment of the United Nations to the pursuit of comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It continues to do so, and its value remains essential. Its mandate, though seemingly simple, allows the Mission to be flexible, effective, and relevant in a complex region. The value of UNTSO's expert military observers in support of UNIFIL and UNDOF mandate implementation is undisputed. UNTSO's regional liaison mandate allows the Mission to analyze and assess multifaceted political and security issues, and its regional footprint complements other UN missions in the region, adding strategic-level value to the over-arching goals of the United Nations.

UNTSO remains first in peace, until a lasting peace.

COUNT BERNADOTTE

In the aftermath of the 1947 UN Partition Plan and the breakout of violent conflict, the UN appointed Swedish diplomat Count Folke Bernadotte of Wisborg as Mediator in Palestine on 20 May 1948, the first official mediator in the UN's history.

On 29 May 1948, the Security Council, in its Resolution 50, called for a cessation of hostilities in Palestine and instructed the UN Mediator to supervise the observance of the provisions stated in the Resolution, with the assistance of a group of military observers. This Resolution formed the basis for the first UN peacekeeping operation which became known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO). The first group of observers arrived in June and was immediately deployed in Palestine and some of the Arab countries, with Haifa becoming the temporary headquarters.

After large-scale fighting erupted again between Israel and Arab forces, the Security Council, in its Resolution 54 (1948) of 15 July, ordered a cease-fire of indefinite duration.

Count Bernadotte was assassinated on 17 September 1948.



Count Bernadotte with HoM Lt.Gen. Riley and UNTSO UNMOs, 1948



Dr. Bunche at UNTSO Government House, 1964

RALPH BUNCHE

Count Bernadotte was succeeded in his position as UN mediator by his chief aide, Dr. Ralph Bunche. Dr. Bunche was ultimately successful in bringing about the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, for which he would later receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

American political scientist and diplomat, Dr. Bunche was the first African American to gain a doctorate from an American university in the 1930s. He was the first person of African descent to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

After serving his country in the Second World War, in military intelligence, Dr. Bunche played a major role in the early days of the United Nations. He worked on two of the UN's foundational documents: the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He went on to become Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations, supporting the efforts of colonized peoples to achieve freedom and independence in the Trusteeship Council.

Dr. Bunche was the architect and director of subsequent United Nations peacekeeping operations, and he personally led the largest and most challenging of these at the time, the 1960 UN operation in the Congo.

HEADS OF MISSION AND CHIEFS OF STAFF



Count Thord Bonde, Colonel
May 1948 - July 1948 (Sweden)



Åge Lundström, Major General
July 1948 - September 1948
(Sweden)



**William E. Riley,
Lieutenant General**
September 1948 - June 1953 (USA)



Vagn Bennike, Major General
June 1953 - September 1954
(Denmark)



**E.L.M. Burns,
Lieutenant General**
August 1954 - November 1956
(Canada)



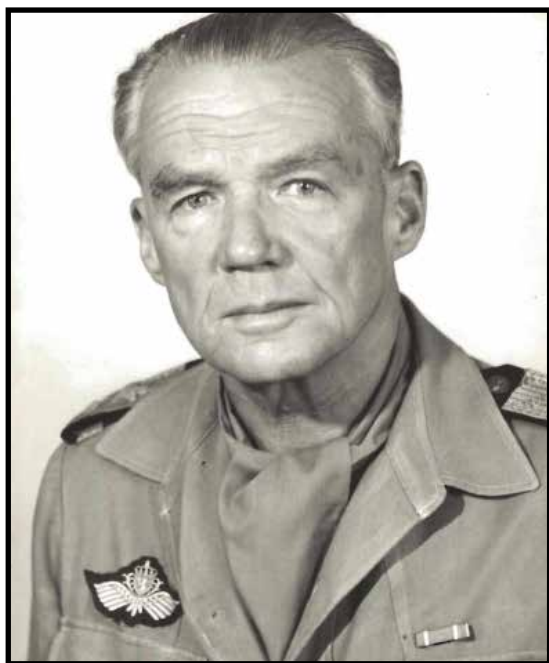
Byron V. Leary, Colonel
November 1956 - March 1958
(USA)



**Carl C. von Horn,
Lieutenant General**
March 1958 - July 1960
January 1961 - May 1963 (Sweden)



R.W. Rickert, Colonel
July - December 1960 (USA)



Odd Bull, Lieutenant General
June 1963 - July 1970 (Norway)



**Ensio Siilasvuo,
Lieutenant General**
August 1970 - October 1973
(Finland)



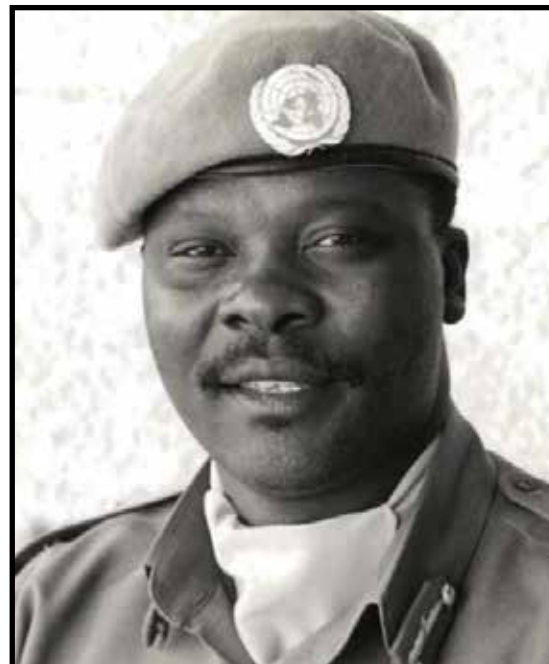
Richard Bunworth, Colonel
November 1973 - March 1974
(Ireland)



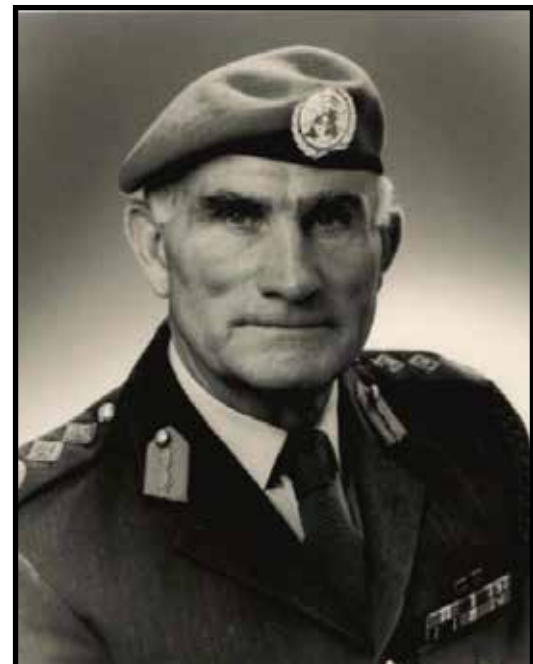
Bengt Liljestrand, Major General
April 1974 - August 1975
(Sweden)



Keith D. Howard, Colonel
September 1975 - December 1975
(Australia)



**Emmanuel A. Erskine,
Major General**
January 1976 - March 1978
February 1981 – May 1986 (Ghana)



**William O'Callaghan,
Lieutenant General**
April 1978 - June 1979
May 1986 - June 1987 (Ireland)



O. Forsgren, Colonel
June 1979 - January 1980
(Sweden)



HoM/CoS M-G Gauchat (UNTSO, right) and HoM/FC M-G Hamal (UNDOF, left) at Mount Hermon, 2022



HoM/CoS M-G Gauchat at OGL, 2022



HoM/CoS M-G Gauchat at UNTSO Government House, 2022



HoM/CoS M-G Gauchat at OP-73 platform, 2022



Erkki R. Kaira, Major General
February 1980 – February 1981
(Finland)



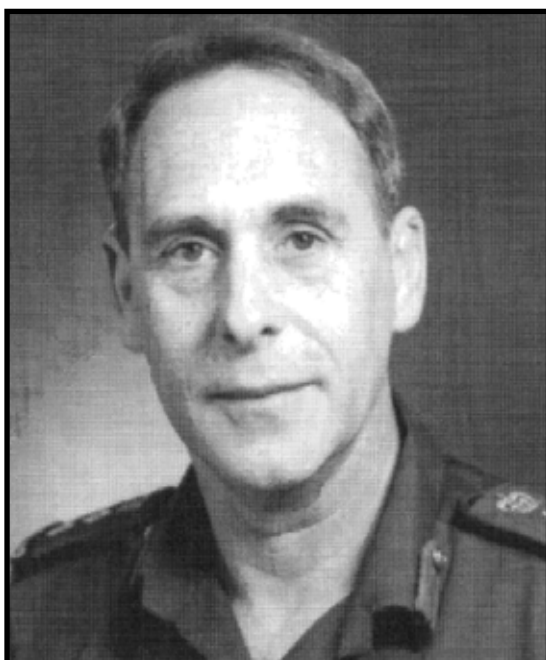
Martin O. Vadset, Lieutenant General
June 1987 - October 1990 (Norway)



Hans Christensen, Major General
October 1990 - October 1992
(Finland)



Krisna Thapa, Major General
October 1992 - December 1993
(Nepal)



John Fisher, Colonel
December 1993 - April 1994
(New Zealand)



Luc Bujold, Colonel
April 1994 - June 1995
(Canada)



Jaakko Oksanen, Colonel
June - September 1995
(Finland)



Rufus Kupolati, Major General
October 1995 - March 1998
(Nigeria)



Tim Ford, Major General
April 1998 - March 2000
(Australia)



Franco Ganguzzu, Major General
April 2000 - March 2002
(Italy)



Carl Dodd, Major General
March 2002 - September 2004
(Ireland)



Clive Lilley, Major General
November 2004 - November 2006
(New Zealand)



Ian Gordon, Major General
December 2006 - January 2009
(Australia)



Robert Mood, Major General
February 2009 - February 2011
(Norway)



Yuha Kilpia, Major General
May 2011 - June 2013
(Finland)



Michael Finn, Major General
July 2013 – July 2015
(Ireland)



**Arthur David Gawn,
Major General**
September 2015 - October 2017
(New Zealand)



Kristin Lund, Major General
October 2017 - October 2019
(Norway)



**Alan Doyle,
Acting Head of Mission**
October 2019 - November 2021
(Ireland, civilian)



Patrick Gauchat, Major General
December 2021 - Present
(Switzerland)





IN MEMORIAM

In commemorating 75 years of UNTSO, we pay tribute to our peacekeepers who have died in the service of peace.

In so doing, we would be remiss, however, not to recognize the void created in the lives and spirit of the families that UNTSO peacekeepers left behind with their passing. The United Nations peacekeeping family is profoundly grateful for their sacrifice.

They will never be forgotten.

1940s

Comdt R. de Labarriere (France)	3 July 1948
FSO O. H. Bakke (Norway)	13 July 1948
LtCol J. Queru (France)	28 August 1948
Capt P. Jeannel (France)	28 August 1948
Count F. Bernadotte (Sweden)	17 September 1948
LtCol A. Serot (France)	27 September 1948
Sgt L. Welling (USA)	7 December 1948
Cpl C. F. Smith (USA)	7 December 1948

1950s

Maj R. A. Lepesqueur (USA)	29 December 1950
FSO S. A. Rasmussen (Denmark)	28 July 1956
LtCol G. Flint (Canada)	26 May 1958

1960s

Capt E. Sparre (Sweden)	15 January 1967
Comdt T. Wickham (Ireland)	7 June 1967
L/S S. Gideon (Jordan)	7 June 1967
Maj. B. R. Plane (Sweden)	27 July 1969

1970s

L/S S. M. Asuba (Egypt)	15 April 1970
LtCol J. E. A. Bogvad (Sweden)	16 July 1970
Capt G. Banse (France)	6 October 1973
Capt G. R. Olivieri (Italy)	6 October 1973
Capt D. B. Tjorswaag (Norway)	9 October 1973
Capt Paavola (Finland)	30 September 1975
LtCdr J. Valtonen (Finland)	7 July 1978

1980s

Maj G. H. Dogniaux (France)	11 May 1982
Comdt M. Nestor (Ireland)	25 September 1982
Maj R. Carlson (USA)	25 September 1982
Maj H. S. Warren (USA)	25 September 1982
Capt K. Lasonen (Finland)	25 September 1982
Capt P. McCarthy (Australia)	12 January 1988

1990s

Col W. R. Higgins (USA)	6 July 1990
-------------------------	-------------

2000s

LtCdr E. H. Rasmussen (Denmark)	7 February 2004
Maj J. L. Valet (France)	9 January 2005
Maj H. P. Lang (Austria)	25 July 2006
Maj P. Hess-von Kruedener (Canada)	25 July 2006
Maj Z. Y. Du (China)	25 July 2006
Lt(N) J. Makinen (Finland)	25 July 2006

2010s

Maj P. Semin (Austria)	4 February 2014
Maj R. Jimenez (Chile)	16 June 2014



Military salute to fallen UNTSO peacekeepers, Jerusalem



HoM/CoS M-G Gauchat honoring fallen UNTSO peacekeepers at UNTSO Government House, 2022

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

In December 1917, after about 400 years of Ottoman rule, Jerusalem was surrendered to British armed forces and, on 30 October 1918, the Ottoman Empire capitulated to the Allies, ending its involvement in First World War. With the partitioning of the former Ottoman Empire, the British military control - which had, in November 1918, divided the Ottoman territories into “occupied enemy territory administrations” - was replaced in July 1920 by a civilian administration, headed by a High Commissioner. The Mandate for Palestine, a legal commission of the League of Nations that came into effect on 29 September 1923, formalized British administration of the territory.

Representing the architectural vision of Austen St. Barbe Harrison, the design for the Government House, as the headquarters of the High Commissioner, was intended to create a presence that would relate to historical tradition of Palestine, its dramatic landscapes, and the nature of local architecture, and simultaneously represent the values and culture of the British Empire. Construction began in 1929, with the Italian construction company Ernesto D. A. Da Faro employing over 400 workers, including renowned local artisans such as Armenian ceramist David Ohanessian, who crafted the ballroom’s resplendent tile fireplace. At the time the Government House was completed in 1933 and occupied by High Commissioner Herbert Samuel, its magnificence was considered either the manifestation of a historic mission fulfilled, or a symbol of undisguised imperialism appropriately located on the biblical Hill of Evil Council.





Aerial view of the Government House under British Mandate (facing North), 1933

When Britain terminated its Mandate at midnight on 14 May 1948, the British abandoned the building to the Red Cross. The Red Cross reportedly used the building as a hospital during the ensuing Arab-Israeli War and then, with the first truce, it was handed over to the United Nations. UNTSO has occupied the compound since 7 October 1948.

The Armistice Agreements signed in 1949 between Israel and each of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan established the Armistice Demarcation Lines. Where the Parties could not agree the line, each demarked their version, and the Government House was situated, to-date, in the area between the “red line” (the Demarcation Line established by Israel beyond which its armed forces would not move) and the “green line” (the Demarcation Line established by Jordan beyond which its armed forces would not move). It is, therefore,



Aerial view of the Government House under British Mandate (facing South), 1933



Aerial view of the Government House under British Mandate (facing East), 1933



Government House compound East Gate

located in a space referred to as “area between the lines” or, more commonly, “no-man’s land”. Under the Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan, the areas between the lines were subject to neither Israeli nor Jordanian control.

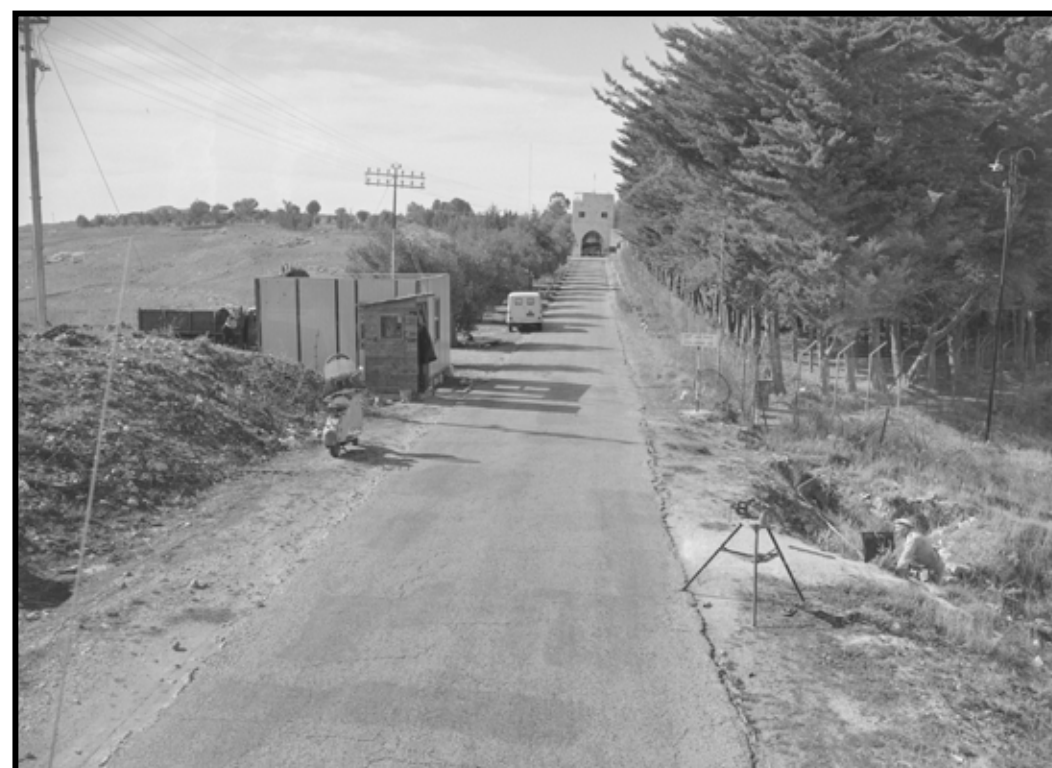
As the result of a pitched battle that was waged in and around the compound during the 1967 War, UNTSO evacuated the Government House for approximately two months, between June and August 1967. When finally able to resume its possession of the compound, Israel had annexed the area between the red and green lines, including the areas surrounding the Government House, and beyond. Those areas are considered occupied territories within the meaning of the Hague Conventions of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention (12 August 1949).

UNTSO retains possession of the Government House as its headquarters, in trust, pending completion of its mandate and the final disposition of territorial status issues as described in the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement and the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan (26 October 1994).

Integral to its stewardship of the Government House, UNTSO began, in 2016, a major, ongoing renovation project. The renovations have been planned, engineered and implemented, using highest standards, to preserve the structural, historical, cultural, and architectural integrity of the compound, befitting its place in the history of the region and of the United Nations.



Rear view of the Government House under British Mandate, 1933



Road to the Government House compound Main Gate (West)



Government House, Winter 2002



Government House, Sunken Garden, 2022

SUPERVISION OF TRUCE AND CEASE-FIRE

Further to being the very first peacekeeping in United Nations' history, UNTSO is unique for being the only mission to-date covering over five countries, comprising the parties to the Armistice Agreements.

Following the signing of the 1949 General Armistice Agreements, UNTSO's main responsibilities were related to the work of the Mixed Armistice Commissions (MACs). The Egypt-Israel General Armistice Agreement provided for a MAC of seven members, three from each side and the Chief of Staff (or a senior officer designated by the CoS) as Chairperson. The Commission was empowered to employ observers who, if they were to be United Nations military observers, would remain under UNTSO command. The other General Armistice Agreements were similar, except that the MACs were composed of five members, two from each party and the Chairperson.

The main task of the Commissions was the investigation and examination of the claims or complaints presented by the parties relating to the application and observance of the Armistice Agreements. These claims, or complaints, mainly concerned firing across the Armistice Demarcation Lines, crossing of the Lines by persons or animals, overflights on the wrong side of the Lines, the presence of troops or equipment in demilitarized zones or



defensive areas and illegal cultivation contrary to agreements. Occasionally, the Commissions also gave attention to special problems of common interest to the parties.

The observers assigned to each Commission carried out the investigations of complaints submitted to the Commission. They also participated in search and rescue missions when such missions were undertaken by UNTSO at the request of one of the parties.

During the Suez Crisis in 1956, Israel discontinued its application and observance of the Armistice Agreement with Egypt and, after the war in 1967, Israel did the same with the other three agreements. The Secretary-General did not accept this act as valid for reasons that he explained in the introduction to his annual report to the General Assembly, as follows: "...there has been no indication either in the General Assembly or in the Security Council that the validity and applicability of the Armistice Agreements have been changed as a result of the recent hostilities or of the war of 1956; each Agreement, in fact, contains a provision that it will remain in force 'until a peaceful settlement between the parties is achieved.' Nor has the Security Council or the General Assembly taken any steps to change the pertinent resolutions of either organ relating to the Armistice Agreements or to earlier cease-fire demands. The Agreements provide that by mutual consent the signatories can revise or suspend them. There is no provision in them for unilateral termination of their application. This has been the United Nations position all

along and will continue to be the position until a competent organ decides otherwise."

Accordingly, the capability to supervise the Armistice Agreements has been maintained in those sectors where no peaceful settlement has been achieved. The Chiefs of the UNTSO Liaison Offices in Beirut and Damascus are the designated Chairpersons of the Israel-Lebanon and Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission, respectively.

Israel – Egypt sector: Following the 1956 war, UNTSO military observers assisted a new UN force (the United Nations Emergency Force – UNEF I) which deployed to Egypt along the new Israel-Egypt cease-fire line in the Sinai. The 1973 war, through which UNTSO continued to function, resulted in a further arrangement which included the establishment of a new armed force (UNEF II) which was tasked to man a buffer zone in the Sinai Desert. UNTSO cooperated closely with UNEF II but continued with its original mandate. Since the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) provides a buffer between Israel and Egypt and, at the request of the Egyptian Government, UNTSO military observers have continued with their tasks and maintain a presence in the Sinai.

Liaison Office Cairo

The peace treaty concluded in 1979 between Egypt and Israel superseded the 1949 Armistice Agreement in that sector, thus terminating the Egypt-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission. At the request of the Egyptian Government, UNTSO has

U.N.T.S.O. GENERAL DEPLOYMENT STATUS REPORT

as at 4 April 1975

PERSONNEL	UNTSO HQ GOV. HOUSE JERUSALEM	KCC-J JERUSALEM	ISMAL DAMASCUS	TCC TIBERIAS	LO GAZA	ICC LO CAIRO / ISM	ILMAC BEIRUT	LO AMMAN	TOTAL ON BOARD	RESERVE	TOTAL	TIBERIAS	UNDOF DAMASCUS	UNEF	GRAND TOTAL	TOTAL TSO AUTHORIZED
Military Observers	13	45	29	16	1	46	49	2	201			47	42	6	296	298
Prof. Officers & above	3								3						3	4
G/S Secretaries	6								6						6	6
FS Officers (ATS)	117	1	18	15	1	4	17	2	175						175	187
Local G/S staff	119	2	16	7	3	10	9	2	168						168	171
Local daily-paid	1	1				5	3	2	12						12	
TOTAL	259	49	63	38	5	65	78	8	565			47	42	6	660	656
VEHICLES																
Passenger	48	15	16	17	2	24	33	3	158	10	168	20	46	52	286	
Bus	19	1	1	1		6	2		30	6	36		2	4	42	
Freight carrier	22	2	5	3		5	4		41	5	46	6	6	6	64	
Utility vehicle	4		1	2			1		8	1	9			5	14	
TOTAL	93	18	23	23	2	35	40	3	237	22	259	26	54	67	406	
OBSERVATION POSTS							6				6	7	5		18	
PATROL BASES							2				2				2	
PATROLS							2				2				2	
PORTA-KAMPS	1	1					2					6	4		14	
OBS. TRAILERS	6											2	5		13	
BEDFORD CARAVANS	5		1				1					1	2	2	12	



Analysis Team



Briefing at UNTSO Headquarters

continued to maintain a presence in the area. Its observers in the Egypt-Israel sector are organized as UNTSO Liaison Office Cairo (UNTSO LOC) in Cairo. UNTSO LOC represents UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff and maintains a visible UNTSO presence in Egypt, through liaison meetings with Egyptian government organizations, UN troop contributing country embassies, and UN offices located in Cairo on behalf of UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff. It also conducts patrols through the Sinai.

Israel – Jordan sector: No cease-fire observation was established in the Israeli-Jordan sector. At the end of the 1967 war, Israeli forces had occupied the entire West Bank up to the Jordan River. The situation was generally quiet in this sector, however, tension increased in 1968 and 1969, mainly because of the increasing activities of Palestinian commandos operating from the east side of the Jordan Valley and retaliatory action by Israeli forces. The Secretary-General engaged with the Israeli and Jordanian authorities of stationing United Nations observers in the Jordan Valley but could not secure an agreement.

Liaison Office Amman and Tel Aviv

In 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty and the UNTSO Office in Amman was closed the following year. From 1994 to 2009, liaison with the Jordanian and Israeli authorities was handled by UNTSO Headquarters in Jerusalem. In July 2009, the Liaison Office Amman and Tel Aviv (LOATA) was established to represent UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff in Israel and Jordan. The main tasks are to liaise, cooperate, and maintain good relations with Israeli and Jordan officials and UN organizations in both countries.

Israel – Syria sector: In the 1950s UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff decided, with the agreement of the parties, to establish observation posts along the Armistice Demarcation Line. Following the 1967 war, military observers were re-deployed along the front lines which later became the new cease-fire lines. They continued to function even during the 1973 war. In May 1974, when the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established, UNTSO military observers were tasked to assist UNDOF.



Briefing at UNTSO Headquarters

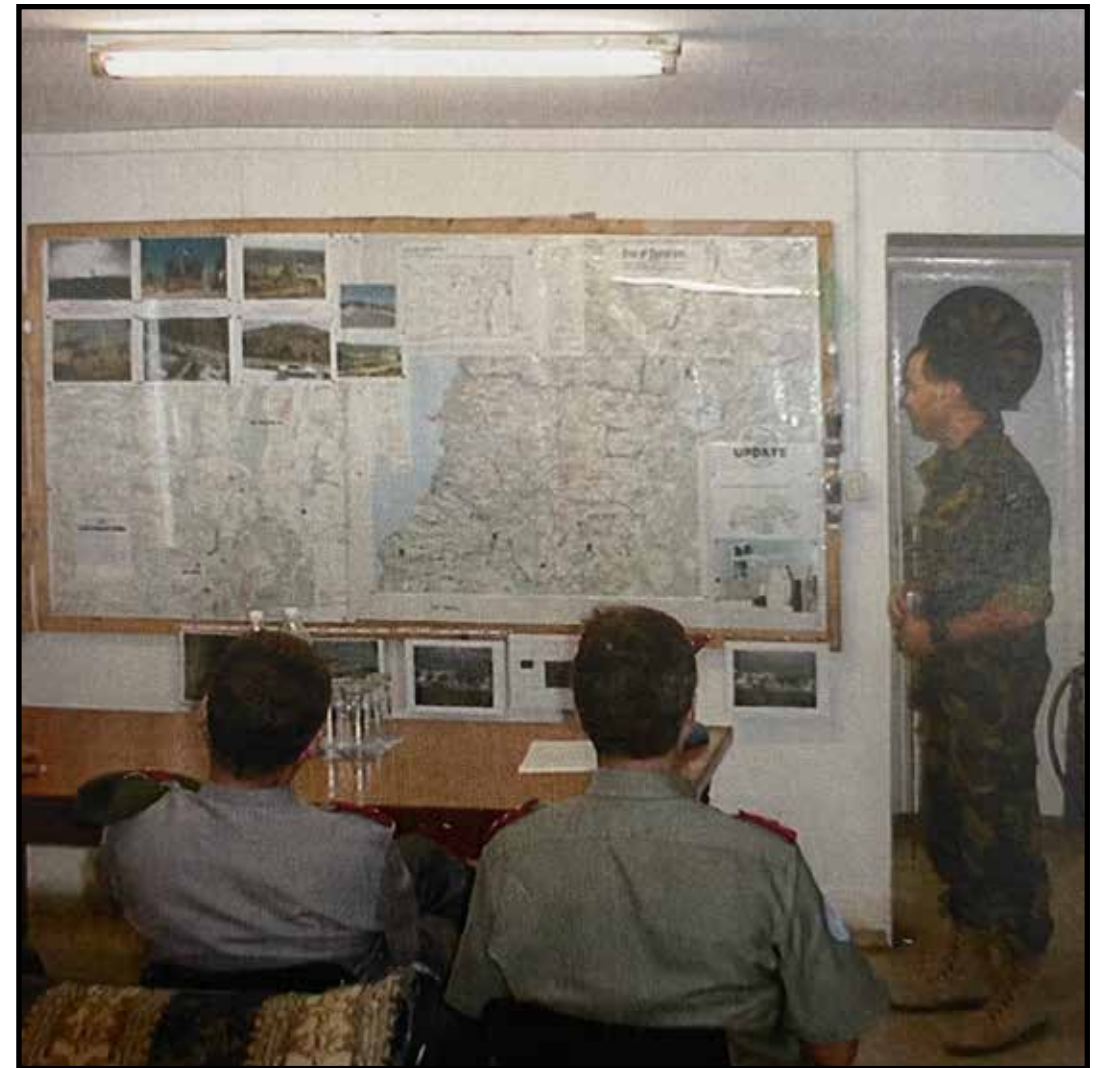
Observation Group Golan

When the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established on 31 May 1974, a total of 90 UNTSO military observers in the Israel-Syria sector were assigned to assist UNDOF. Operating from Tiberias and Damascus, they continue to man observation posts located along both sides of the Area of Separation. They conduct fortnightly inspections of the Areas of Limitation to verify that Israel and Syria do not exceed the numbers of troops and armaments agreed in 1974. In 1979, the observers were formed into Observer Group Golan (OGG), which has continued to carry out their tasks under the operational control (OPCON) of the UNDOF commander.

Further demonstration of UNTSO's ability to adapt quickly to changes in the operating environment has been seen in how UNTSO has reacted swiftly to the Syrian crisis. An Observation Post (OP) Security Enhancement Project was initiated in 2013 which would see improvements to OP Perimeter Security, as well as ballistic enhancements to the OP Observation Platforms. These measures, along with the introduction of armored vehicles for operations in Syria, demonstrate not only UNTSO's ability to change with its operational environment, but also that the safety and security of its personnel is UNTSO's priority.

Liaison Office Damascus

UNTSO Liaison Office Damascus (UNTSO LOD) is a separate UNTSO unit performing support and liaison functions for OGG and the UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff. Chief LOD represents UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff by conducting liaison visits and



Briefing at Observation Group Lebanon, OP MAR, 2001/02



Military observer interacting with local population



Different mobility concepts



Observation Group Golan, Change of command ceremony, Camp Faouar, 2023



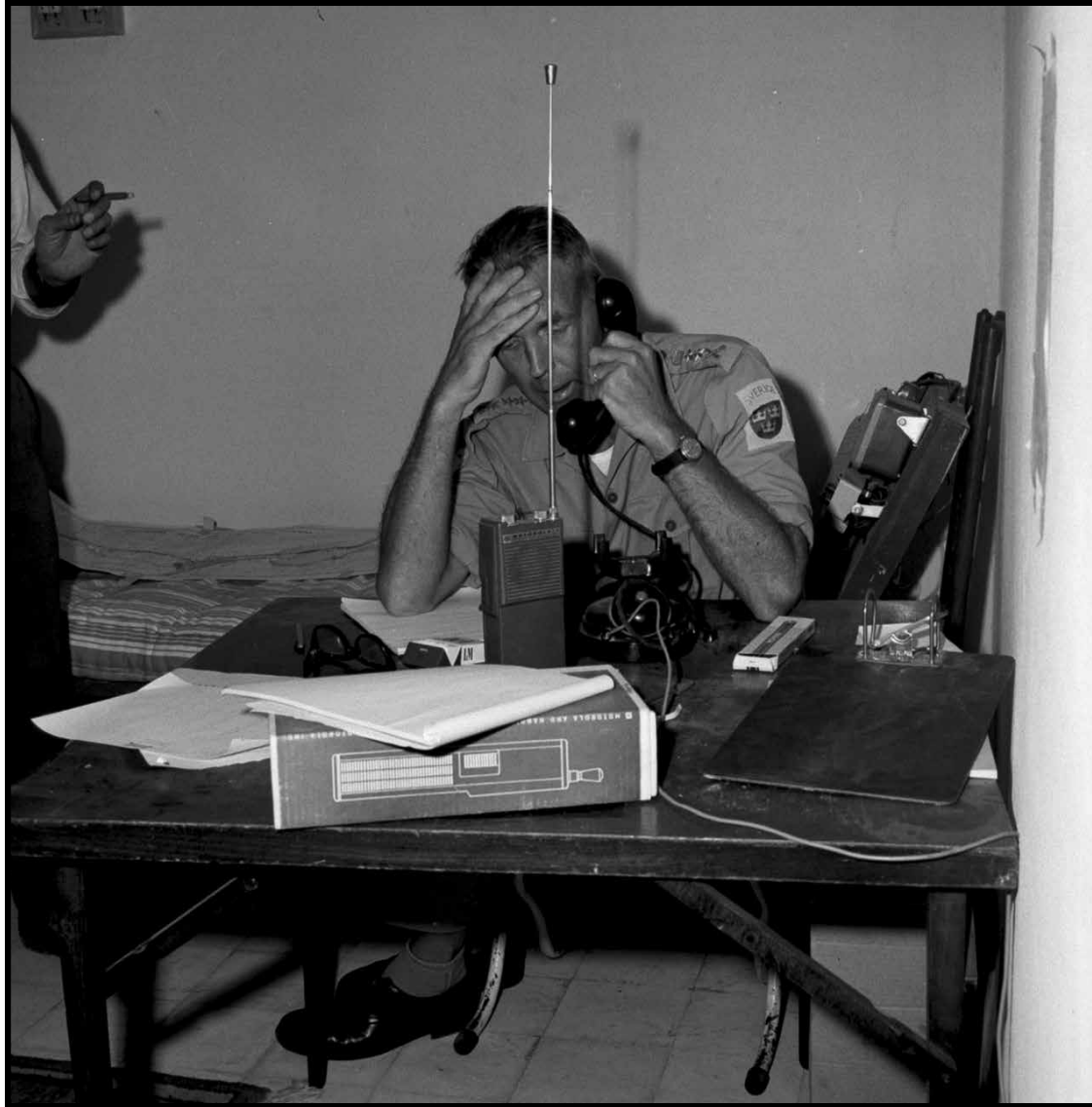
meetings with the SSAD (Senior Syrian Arab Delegate), diplomatic representations, and the International Organizations located in Damascus in order to maintain and/or build good relations with UNTSO. The Chief of UNTSO LOD is still the designated Chairperson of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission (ISMALC).

Israel – Lebanon sector: Following rising tensions in the border areas in 1972, UNTSO established observation posts on the Lebanese side of the Armistice Demarcation Line and increased the number of UNMOs in the area. When the Security Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in March 1978, UNTSO's military observers were assigned to assist UNIFIL in the fulfillment of its mandate. It was stipulated that the military observers of UNTSO would continue to function along the Armistice Demarcation Line after the termination of the mandate of UNIFIL.

Observer Group Lebanon

The observers assigned to assist UNIFIL were formed into Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) and were placed under the operational control (OPCON) of the commander of UNIFIL.

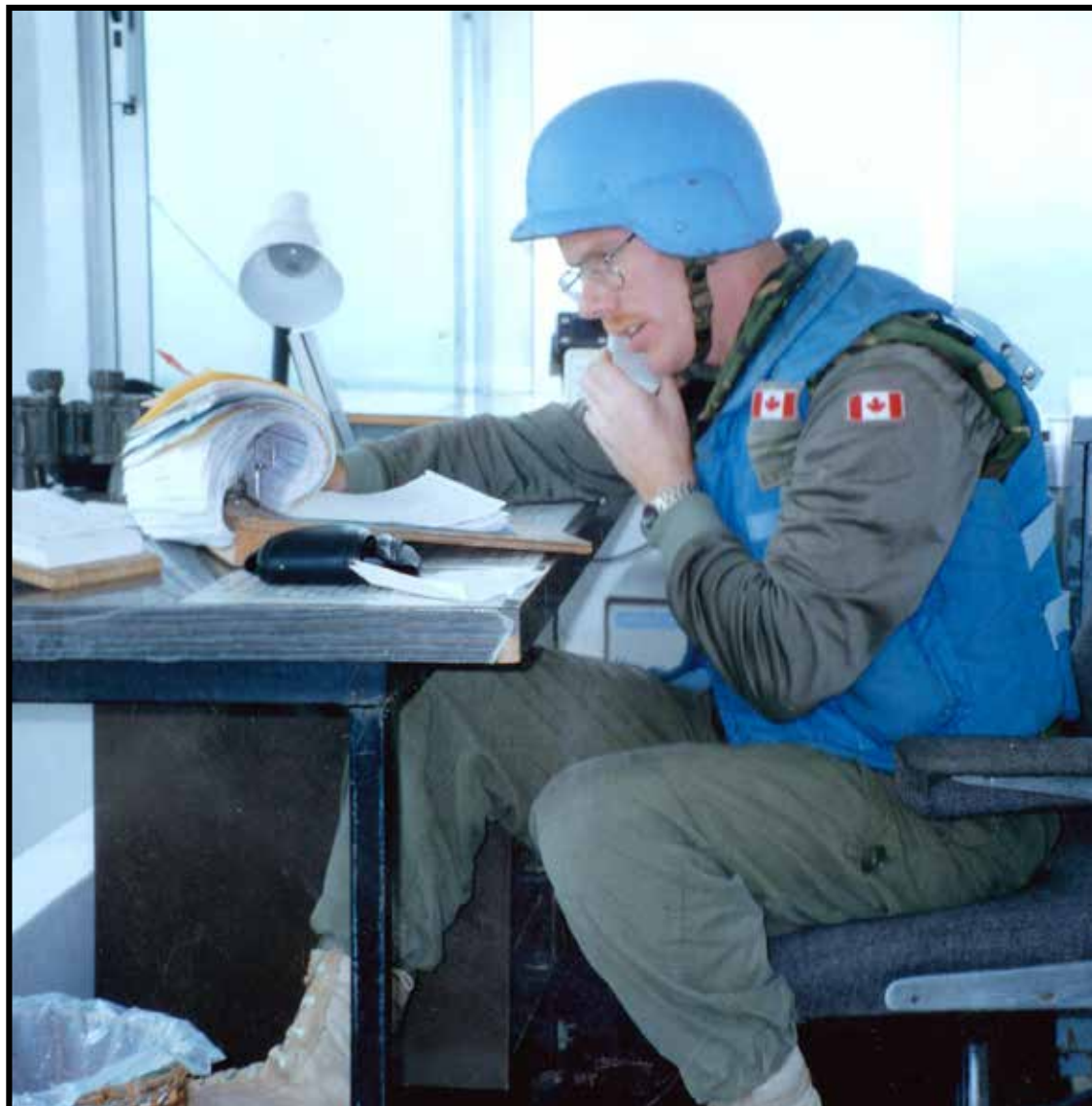
They operate from two patrol bases, operate mobile teams, conduct patrols and investigations, and carry out liaison duties. They also perform staff duties at UNIFIL headquarters.



Oh boy, oh boy!



Daily communications



Observation Group Lebanon, Team Xray, 1996



Observation Group Lebanon, Patrol Base Ras, Team Victor, 2008



Early temporary observation post



Ground observation



Implementation of demarcation points

Liaison Office in Beirut

The headquarters of the Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission (ILMAC) in Beirut did not become part of OGL but worked as a liaison office for UNIFIL until the latter established its own liaison office in Beirut. Following the Israeli incursions into Lebanon in June 1982, the Security Council authorized the Secretary-General to immediately deploy UNTSO military observers to monitor the situation around Beirut. Initially, ten military observers were assigned to Observer Group Beirut (OGB) and were increased to 50 after the killing of a large number of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Following the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Beirut area in September 1983, the tasks assigned to OGB were reduced and in mid-1992, OGB was converted to UNLOB, later to the UNTSO Liaison Office Beirut (UNTSO LOB). This office represents UNTSO Head of Mission and Chief of Staff by conducting liaison visits and meetings with the diplomatic representations, the Lebanese Security Forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Organizations present in Beirut in order to maintain and/or build good relations with UNTSO. The Chief of UNTSO LOB is also the designated Chairman of ILMAC.



Observer Group Lebanon, 2001-02



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Sierra, 2019



Observer Group Jerusalem



Observer Group Egypt



Observer Group Golan - Damascus



UNTSO Gaza



Observer Group Lebanon



Early observation post



Observer Group Golan - Tiberias



Observer Group Beirut



Observation Post 51 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 51 (today), Alpha side



Observation Post 52 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 53 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 53 (today), Alpha side



Observation Post 54 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 54 (today), Alpha side



Observation Post 55 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 55 (today), Alpha side



Observation Post 73 (old), Alpha side



Observation Post 73 (today), Alpha side



Observation Post 56 (old), Bravo side



Observation Post 56 (today), Bravo side



Observation Post 57 (old), Bravo side



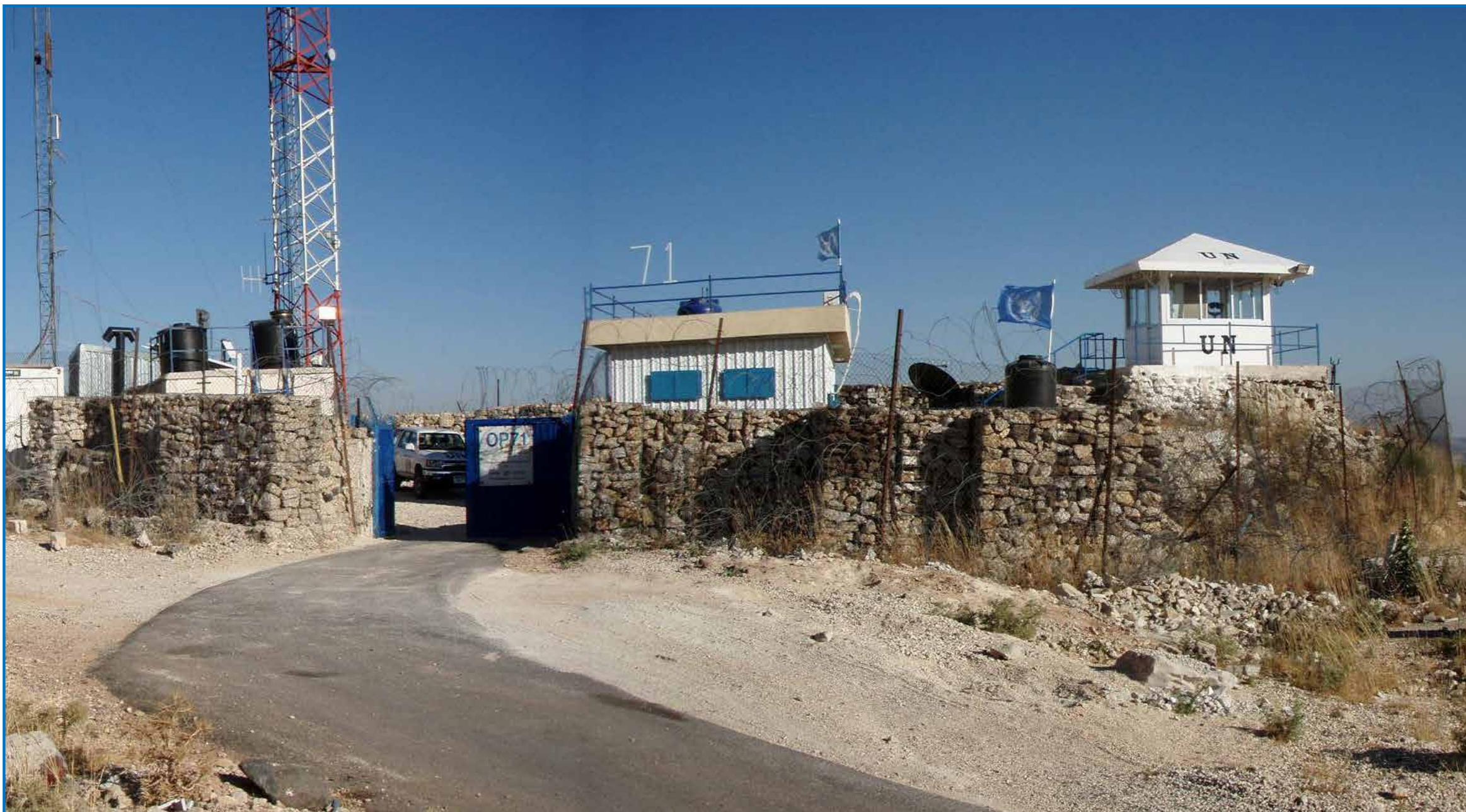
Observation Post 57 (today), Bravo side



Observation Post 58 (old), Bravo side



Observation Post 58 (today), Bravo side



Observation Post 71 (old), Bravo side



Observation Post 71 (today), Bravo side



Observation Post 72 (old), Bravo side



Observation Post 72 (today), Bravo side

MILITARY OBSERVERS

On 29 May 1948, the Security Council, in resolution 50 (1948), called for a cessation of hostilities in Palestine and decided that a truce should be supervised by the UN Mediator, with the assistance of a group of military observers. The first group of observers arrived in June 1948. In 1949, UNTSO military observers remained to supervise the Armistice Agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours, which were for many years the main basis of an uneasy truce in the area.

UNTSO military observers are unarmed and carry out their tasks under the principle of impartiality. They operate with the consent of the parties and are dependent on the cooperation of the parties for their effectiveness. There is no element of enforcement in their functioning, although their presence is a deterrent to violations of the Armistice Agreements and, acting under United Nations resolutions, they exercise a degree of moral dissuasion. When there is a threat of violence, the Chief of Staff can, at own



ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR ON PALESTINE

PE 31/3/1

Instructions to United Nations Observers Engaged
in the Supervision of the Truce in Palestine and
the Seven Arab States

(October 1948)

I. The Role of the Observer

1. The primary function of the Observer is to supervise the observance of the terms of the Truce in the area to which he is assigned. To discharge this function properly the Observer must be completely objective in his attitudes and judgments and must maintain a thorough neutrality as regards the political issues in the Palestine situation. The fundamental objective of the terms of the Truce is to ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that no military advantage will accrue to either side as a result of the application of the Truce. The observer is entitled to demand that acts contrary to the terms of the Truce be not committed or be rectified, but he has no power to enforce such demands and must rely largely upon his ability to settle disputes locally by direct approaches to local commanders and authorities and, where possible, by bringing the commanders and authorities together. It is the responsibility of the observer to call promptly to the attention of the appropriate local commanders and authorities every act which in his opinion is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Truce.

Role of military observers, 1948

E. Each member of UNTSO must remain continuously aware that he is an "ambassador" not only of the United Nations but also of his own country. The senior UNMO of each nation is responsible for maintenance of a high standard of dignity and deportment by each of his fellow nationals, subject to complete command authority of the Chairman concerned.

Role of senior national military observers, 1961



Military observers in the field

Duties of a United Nations Military Observer

- 2.3.1. It is to be borne in mind by all military personnel assigned to UNTSO that one of their prime duties and responsibilities is to assist the Chief of Staff in the maintenance of the cease-fire ordered by the Security Council on 15 July 1948 and reaffirmed in a resolution adopted on 11 August 1949. To this end and for this purpose an Observer will, whether on assigned duty, on time off, or on leave within the Mission lose no opportunity to assist in achieving this aim. Whenever there is a threat to the cease-fire or the cease-fire has been broken, it is the responsibility of all military Observers to endeavour to assist in restoring tranquillity at the earliest possible moment. Any threat, implied or actual, should be reported by the quickest means available, no matter how trivial it may appear at the moment. An opportunity missed may lead to the development of a grave incident which timely warning might have averted.
- 2.3.2. UNMOs assigned to a MAC for duty will come under the command of the Chairman of that MAC for all duty purposes.
- 2.3.3. An UNMO is required to assist in supervising the implementation of the terms of the G.A.A. in the area to which he has been assigned by the Chief of Staff.
- 2.3.4. He may be required to :
- Assist in effecting a cease-fire;
 - Investigate and report on incidents;
 - Patrol areas or be stationed in outstations or observation posts (OPs) or both;
 - Witness the handing over of people of either side who have crossed the Armistice Demarcation Line (ADL);
 - Witness the handing over of property or animals from one Party to the other;
 - Witness work done by the Parties under anti-malaria, anti-rabies and anti-locust agreements;
 - Observe the marking of the Armistice Demarcation Line;
 - Perform staff and other duties at HQ UNTSO and MACs;
 - Report any activities which may indicate that either Party is violating, or is preparing to violate the terms of the G.A.A.; and
 - Perform other duties as may be assigned to him.
- 2.3.5. In addition to the above, UNMOs will carry out any order necessary to assist the COS in implementing the Security Council's resolution of 11 August 1949 (Cease-fire).

Duties of military observers, 1960

12 July 1963

To : Distribution as shown below

From : Colonel Robert A. Churley, USMC
Deputy Chief of Staff, UNTSO

Subject : Amendment to UNTSO Standing Operational Procedure dated 10 October 1960

1. Effective 17 July 1963 UNTSO Standing Operational Procedure dated 1 October 1960 will be amended by inclusion of new sub-paragraph 2.2.5 as follows:

"When Observer teams are required for the performance of UNMO duties, such as manning observation posts or carrying out investigations, the Chairman/OIC will ensure that such teams be composed of officers of different nationalities. This practice will result in greater objectivity in observation and investigation".

Colonel Robert A. Churley, USMC
Deputy Chief of Staff, UNTSO

Distribution:

Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Chief Administrative Officer
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Operations Officer
Military Personnel Officer
Chief Security Officer
Chief Communications Officer
Chief Transport Officer

Chairman ILMAC	(6)		
Chairman ISMAC	(20)	-	(MAC HQ - 10 OIC Tiberias - 5 OIC Kuneitra - 5)

Chairman HJK-I MAC (10)
Chairman EIMAC (6)
Liaison Officer, Tel Aviv
Liaison Officer, Cairo
Registry ✓

'Two nationalities policy' when first introduced, 1963

initiative, seek to prevent it by appealing to the parties for restraint. In serious cases, the Chief of Staff can bring the matter to the attention of the Security Council through the Secretary-General. Investigations and inquiries may be carried out by observers at the scene when required.

UNTSO military observers monitor cease-fire arrangements and are in a position to assist the parties in the supervision of the Armistice Agreements. They also conduct patrolling, inspections, investigations, liaison, negotiations, and representational duties. Following the wars of 1956, 1967, and 1973, the tasks of the military observers changed with the changing circumstances,



Military observers at Observer Group Jerusalem

but they remained in the mission area, acting as a go-between for the parties and as the means by which isolated incidents can be contained and prevented from escalating into major conflicts.

UNTSO military observers are today attached to the peacekeeping forces in the area: the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) on the Golan and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In addition, UNTSO maintains liaison offices in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jerusalem for liaison with Israel and Jordan.

Assistance to other United Nations operations

Throughout UNTSO's history, the military officers assigned as United Nations observers to UNTSO have frequently been drawn as a reserve of experienced personnel in setting up new peacekeeping operations. Able to move at short notice, they have assisted in the initial phases of all peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, as well as in other operations. UNTSO's military observers and its communications system assisted in setting up the First United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) at short notice during the time of the Suez crisis, as well as the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) in 1960, the





Observer Group Golan – Tiberias regimental dinner, 1994



Military observers ready to deploy from UNTSO Government House



Observer Group Lebanon, OP HIN, Team Zulu, 1995



Observer Group Lebanon, Naqoura, 2001-02



Observer Group Lebanon, OP Kham, 2001-02



Observer Group Lebanon, OP MAR, 2002-02



Observer Group Egypt, August 2005



Observer Group Lebanon, OP HIN, 2005



Observer Group Egypt, 2005-06



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Sierra, Kiwi House, 2018



Observer Group Golan - Tiberias, Team Wadi, 2007



Observer Group Lebanon, Farewell COGL, Naqoura, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon after the war, 2006



Observer Group Golan - Tiberias, Team Hermon, 2015-16



Liaison Office Beirut, 2023



Liaison Office Cairo, 2023



Liaison Office Damascus, 2023

United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) during the crisis in 1958, the United Nations Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM) in 1963, the Second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) in Sinai in 1973, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) the following year, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 1978.

UNTSO contributed observers to military observer teams stationed in Tehran and Baghdad from 1984 to 1988 to monitor the moratorium arranged by the Secretary-General on attacks against civilian centers during the conflict between Iran and Iraq.



Observer Group Golan, Headquarters, 2023



Observer Group Golan – Damascus, Team Citadel, 2023



Observer Group Golan – Tiberias, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Eagle, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Naqoura, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Naqoura, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Sierra, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Victor, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Xray, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Zulu, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Zulu, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Hermon, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Team Wadi, 2023



HoM and the Military component, Government House, Jerusalem, 2023



HoM Front Office, 2023



HoM armoured vehicles, 2023



Military observers at Government House

Troop contributing countries

Starting with 36 observers in 1948, Count Bernadotte requested 100 observers each from Belgium, France, and the United States and 382 auxiliary technical personnel, of which only 572 were actually provided. In 1975, UNTSO operated with 298 observers. In 2023, UNTSO military observers are 153 in total from 28 troop contributing countries (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, India, Ireland, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Zambia) broken down between 141 military observers and 12 senior staff appointments (Deputy Chief of staff in HQ, Outstation chiefs including chiefs of liaison offices, and section chiefs in HQ).

	TCC	SSA	MO
1	Argentina		3
2	Australia		11
3	Austria		4
4	Belgium		1
5	Bhutan		4
6	Canada		4
7	Chile		3
8	Denmark	2	10
9	Estonia	1	3
10	Fiji		2
11	Finland		14
12	India	1	2
13	Ireland	1	11
14	Latvia		1
15	Nepal		3
16	Netherlands		11
17	New Zealand		7
18	Norway	2	10
19	Poland	1	3
20	Serbia		1
21	Slovakia		2
22	Slovenia		2
23	Sweden	1	6
24	Switzerland	1	12
25	Zambia		1
	Sub-total non-PM SC	10	131
<i>Permanent members of the UN Security Council</i>			
	TCC	SSA	MO
26	China	1	4
27	Russia		4
28	USA	1	2
	Sub-total PM SC	2	10
	Total	12	141
	Grand Total		153

TCC Troop contributing countries

SSA Senior staff appointments (rotational)

MO Military observers

PM Permanent Member of the Security Council (United Nations)

SC Security Council (United Nations)

CIVILIAN STAFF

On 22 November 1949, in its 252nd plenary meeting, the General Assembly '[r]equest[ed] the Secretary-General to establish and maintain a list of persons qualified to assist United Nations mission in the functions of observation and supervision, such persons to be called to service in response to a specific resolution by a competent organ of the United Nations; such list shall be known as the United Nations of Field Observers'. As proposed by the Secretary-General in 1948, the main functions of the Field Service would include the provision of land and air transport for missions, the maintenance of radio communications with UN mission personnel, premises, supplies, records and archives, maintenance of order during meetings, operations and maintenance of transport equipment and performance of guard duties. At this time, Field Service personnel were appointed to operate the radio links in Palestine and also constituted the Security Force at the Government House in Jerusalem.

Since inception, UNTSO has maintained a tradition of having a robust, multi-skilled, and trained civilian workforce that is dynamic, relevant, flexible, and ready to deploy at short notice to form the nucleus of other peace-keeping operations.





Administration



Cartography



Communications

During the last 75 years, UNTSO civilian staff have been deployed to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in 1988, the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in 1989, the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of the Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH) in 1990, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in 1991, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) in 1992, and finally the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) in 2012.

In UNTSO, the civilian component provides analytical and legal advice, as well as administrative and logistic support to the operations across five countries without which the core functions of the Mission performed by the military observers could not be sustained over seven decades, since 1948.

In 2023, UNTSO's authorized strength for international and national civilian staff is 229 posts. Current composition of the staffing complement includes staff from 46 countries across five UN-designated geographical regions.



Engineering



Finance





Human Resources

Country representation of civilian staff includes Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States of America, Yemen.



Movement Control



Mail and Pouch



Information Management



Procurement



Security



Supplies



Transport



Warehouse



Administrative Office, Amman, 2023



Liaison Office Beirut, 2023



Observer Group Golan - Damascus, 2023



Observer Group Lebanon, Naqoura, 2023





Observer Group Golan - Tiberias, 2023



Liaison Office Cairo, 2023





HoM and the Civilian component, Government House, Jerusalem, 2023



UN SECRETARY GENERALS IN UNTSO

UNTSO's 75-year journey has been marked by the visits of five United Nations Secretary-Generals from 1958 to 2007, highlighting the importance of UNTSO in the history of the Organization and of the geo-political context.



UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld visits UNTSO, 1958



UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim visits UNTSO, 1974



UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar visits UNTSO, 1984



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visits UNTSO, 2005

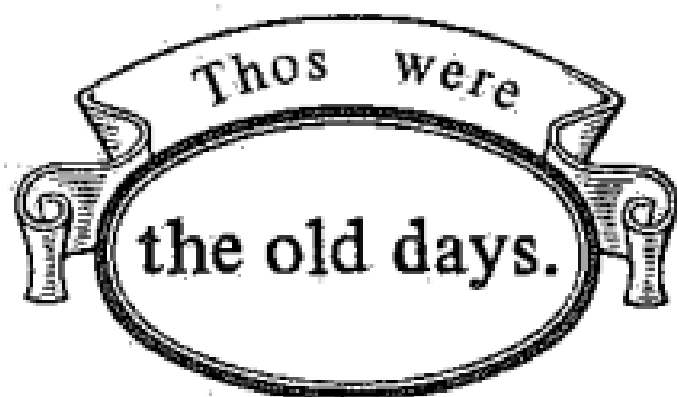


UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visits UNTSO, 2007

HEY SUE!

From conception to design and production, this UNTSO 75th anniversary book is the result of countless hours of research, ideas, debate, and selection drawn from an archive of over 30,000 photos and 50 years' worth of UNTSO Magazine articles.

While inspired by an article 'Hey Sue, it's Springtime' featured in UNTSO Magazine 1985 (March/April, volume 6, number 2) about a fictitious story, the title 'Hey Sue!' stuck and has been chosen for this segment of the book to capture reality on the ground, instead. It is a sentimental journey of the footsteps of high ranking officials, our predecessors, our colleagues, our friends.



Early days of the UN Troops in Jerusalem, back in 1947-48.



One of the French men working at the "Notre Dame" Centre – Jaffa Gate was pecking out of the window when his false teeth-fell down in "No man's land" outside the building, they didn't know what to do. They called the UN officers and asked for assistance.

The UN and the local authorities established a team in search of the lost teeth. UN Milobs, local troops, nuns and cooks from the Centre began the search with the French lieutenant (holding the white flag (picture)). They found the false teeth as you can see.

UNTSO Magazine December 1987

UNTSO'S curiosities.

In memory of 'OGI', the OP dog who died in the line of duty

One day in the beginning of December 2002 a scruffy, lousy, lean and rainy wet dog approached the gate of OP 72 on the Golan. For about two weeks this dog was frequently observed outside the gate. Every time vehicles or people approached the OP the dog cleared off with his tail between his legs, but when it quieted down the dog could be observed outside the gate, sleeping, but always "on duty".

At the same time there were two cats, "Kofi" and "Annan", living at the OP.

One day just before Christmas, UNMO/Maj Oystein Strand invited the dog in to the OP compound for a Christmas meal. After this meal the dog, also was skinny, was weak with hunger and looked miserable, so he was chased away. After three to four minutes he was back inside the OP compound again, covered in dirt. Once again he was chased out, and once again, he came back, even dirtier. The third time he was chased out we acted as observers and tried to find out how he was getting back in. It was full speed, 25-30 meters to the right of the gate and under the fence and he was in for the fourth time completely covered from dirt from crawling under the fence. This time it was decided among the two UNMOs, Maj Bostjan Lesjak (SLO) and Maj Oystein Strand (N), to keep the dog on the OP. He was called OGI and he was properly baptized in a bath of soapy water.

OGI was a good and trustful friend to the UNMOs from day one. He ate like a vacuum cleaner, although he did not like the cats so he ate their food as well. Not surprisingly, after two weeks the cats deserted the OP. A dog's house was requested from UNDOF with little success, so we had to "borrow" one from CF (it is still on the OP).

The first one who tried to wash OGI was Major Strand, the results were below average as OGI had an aversion to water and soap. The next one was Capt Steen Pedersen (DK), the result was better, but the washroom at OP 72 will never be the same. Over the following days OGI was brushed, well fed and soon he was looking like a real dog.

The Force Hygienic Officer, a Veterinary Officer from Poland, gave him some shots against intestinal worms and scabies, and by the end of February the Vet looked at him again and declared OGI to be in good health.

OGI was a funny dog. He accepted the male UNMOs from day one, the female UNMOs took some two-three days. He gave notice when UNDOF personnel came to the OP with two barks. He constantly barked at civilians until we asked him to stop but he never stopped barking at our radio technician from Zambia. He also warned us about the foot patrol from UN position 31, the water truck and other visitors even long before we could see them. So OGI became soon our dedicated member of the team and Force Protection in one. Unfortunately in June, when summer returned and the soil of the Golan was warming up, there was a fateful confrontation between a Palestinian Viper and OGI that led to a tragic result. On the Saturday afternoon of 14 June it was very hot. OGI planned to take a drink from his own bowl, but it looks like a snake was planning to do the same. He fought bravely in this confrontation but he was bitten in his tongue and died within minutes. The UNMOs present at the time, Captain Roberto Zippilli (IT) and Captain Jan Doornenbal (NL), took care of the funeral arrangements and buried him with full military honours.

We salute our loyal and courageous friend who died in the line of duty defending his territory and protecting his friends. Rest in peace OGI.



UNTSO Magazine Summer 2003

A Cat By Any Other Name

In the area north of the ancient town of Hamat Gadar, way above sea level, and overlooking the deep dividing valleys of Israel, Jordan and Syria, you will come across the southernmost observation post on the Alpha side - the venerable OP55. History has shown this OP to be one of the riskiest places to be posted to on the Alpha-side. It is well known that the hotter, desert-like conditions of this particular observation post are also ideal living conditions for scorpions, venomous snakes and fist-sized spiders. Very recently, a Belgian UNMO posted to Team Wadi (aka The Platform Warriors - the caretakers and defenders of both OP54 and OP55) suffered an excruciatingly personal experience with a resident scorpion. Having lived to explain his experience through a published minute-by-minute diary of his trauma, I will not describe the entanglement with our venomous friends, but rather, highlight the life of a legendary feline member of OP55's team.

Garfield, the resident cat and unofficial exterminator of all creepy crawly creatures, has been a fixture at this OP since at least 1993. With his hunting pal Roger, a more recent addition to the OP's 'hobby farm', this dynamic duo scour the countryside (well, at least the area within the OP compound) in the noble quest of protecting their Military Observer masters from any evil creatures of doom lurking in the immediate vicinity.

The other OP cat, Roger, is an undercover sleuth, who is always on the lookout for invading purveyors of evil, combined with the jumping, pouncing, furry-haired animalistic movements of a notorious heavy metal crusader. Could Roger have been named after the famous British actor, Roger Moore, who is known the world over as the secret agent James Bond? Or perhaps he is named after that equally famous rabble-rousing musician Roger Daltrey of "The Who" fame. Most probably Roger earned his name from a combination of those two personalities. Either way, a warning to all creatures intending to attempt a 'restriction of movement' on one of the OP's valiant military observers is decreed: Don't be surprised if you find yourself 'shaken, not stirred' by a pouncing duo of feline ferocity. Yes, it is true that a spider managed to infiltrate and wreak venomous



havoc on our Belgian 'master of the food dish', but be forewarned by the words of the slightly more famous (and musically inclined) scourge to his generation: 'We won't be fooled again!'

UNMOs come and UNMOs go. OPs are built and rebuilt. World and national opinions sway in the wind. But Garfield and Roger, those famous keepers of the 'Feline Protectorate of OP55', will remain long into history. Not surprisingly, this whiskered dynasty has recently perpetuated itself. With the new arrival of a kitten in recent days, it looks as though Roger and Garfield are more than hunting pals. In fact, Rodger will have to now adopt another new name: Rogette!



UNTSO Magazine Winter 2004

THE JOB OF AN UNMO

Although you should always remember that the job of an UNMO is to observe and report, this is not the whole truth. Sometimes strange situations occur, and this story is about one of these.

In the beginning of August 1998 a South Lebanese Army position in Team X-RAY AO was attacked by Armed Elements with mortars. There were no human casualties except for a donkey being hit by a fragment in one knee. The donkey belonged to a poor older couple living near the position.

Team X-RAY (OP MAR) arrived on the spot to carry out its investigation, saw the injured donkey, and called in the veterinarian from NORBATT. He bandaged the donkey and gave it an antibiotic injection. However, for various reasons, he could not return for the follow-up series of five injections.

This is where the fun began and Team X-RAY took over. After a few minutes instruction in preparing for and administering injections, Danish UNMO Major Nikolaj Knudsen was ready for the job. Next day on a MIKE Patrol with Swedish UNMO Captain Laura Swaan Wrede the second injection was given as the photos depict. One would wonder who was most afraid the donkey or Maj Knudsen.

This went on for some days. Also the bandage was changed on a couple of occasions. Several UNMOs from Team X-RAY were trained as veterinarians. The donkey appears to be better, although the NORBATT veterinarian on a later inspection said that it would take a long time before the donkey had fully recovered from the injury. So keep on observing and reporting, but expect the unexpected!

Submitted by:
Maj Nikolaj Knudsen
(Formerly Team X-Ray)



UNTSO Magazine Winter 1998

Reflections of a Field Service Officer.

by Ed. Fennelly (Retired FSO)

Blessed are the Peacemakers; for they shall be called the Children of God. I certainly did not feel like a Child of God when I arrived in UNTSO Jerusalem in May 1956 accompanied by Jimmy Connolly (R.I.P.). We were the first Irishmen in the UN Field Service. Government House was our first working station and we were assigned to general security duties. At that time Jerusalem was a divided city and you went out the Main Gate into Israel and out the East Gate into Jordan. Each gate was manned by a security officer and outside was the Israeli and Jordanian police posts. Everyone was checked leaving and entering Government House. I remember the Israeli policeman, Mr. Freedman, always asked for your number, no matter how many times you went in and out daily. "Number, Mr. Fennelly, 781 Mr. Freedman, Thank you Mr. Fennelly" This formula never varied. The Jordanian policeman on the East Gate was never as particular and waved you on in or out when he got to know you.

Gate duty security personnel did patrols around the perimeter fence and mail runs. The mail run would leave Government House twice a week and head for Beirut, overnight there and then on to Damascus, another overnight and then back through Amman to Jerusalem. Sometimes in my dreams I can still smell

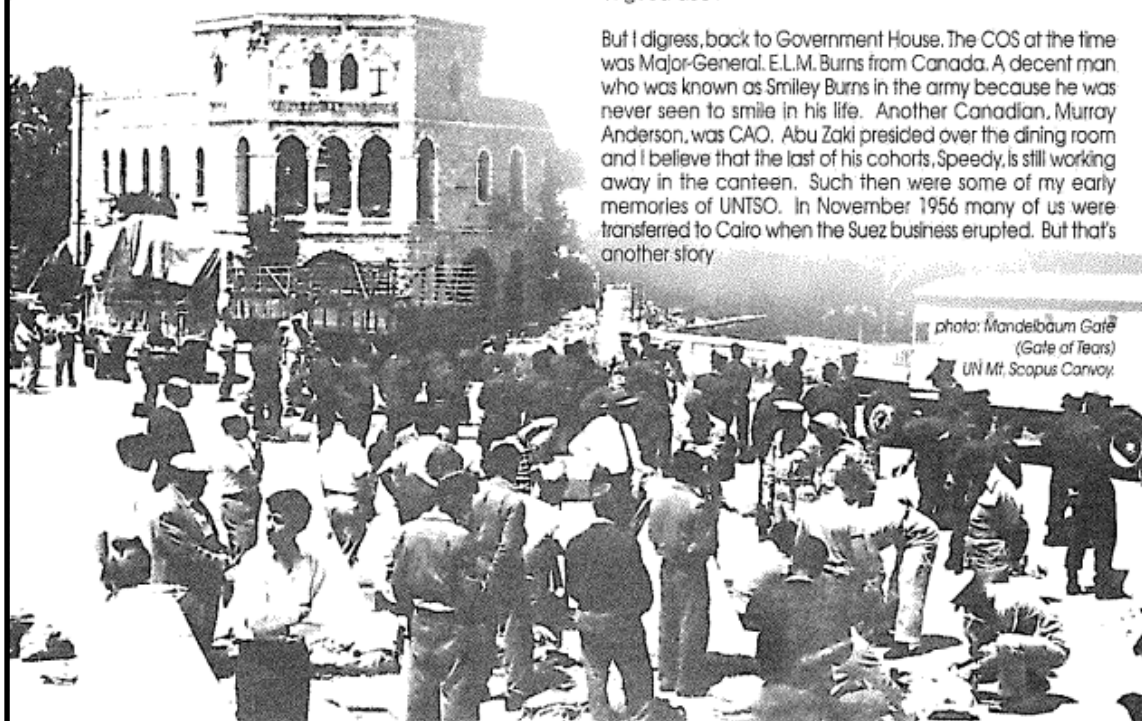
the fumes of the old Bedford truck as I travelled through the Jordan valley in the August heat. Another duty performed by the security section was checking the fortnightly convoy to Mount Scopus. The Israelis changed their people in Mount Scopus every two weeks and we had to search their luggage in Mandelbaum Square where the convoy started. This was to prevent them taking up forbidden items such as weapons, ammunition etc. One security officer travelled in the armoured car with the Israelis. There was also one armed Jordanian soldier in each car. This operation would be, a bit dicey at times as sometimes the Jordanian soldier would start taunting the Israelis who would look to the security officer for protection.

I used to deal with this situation by shouting in my most authoritative voice that old Irish imprecation "Pag mo thain" and this usually had the soldier and the Israelis gazing at each other with a wild surmise until we reached our destination. Luckily for me the Arab Legion did not have too many native Irish speakers at the time.

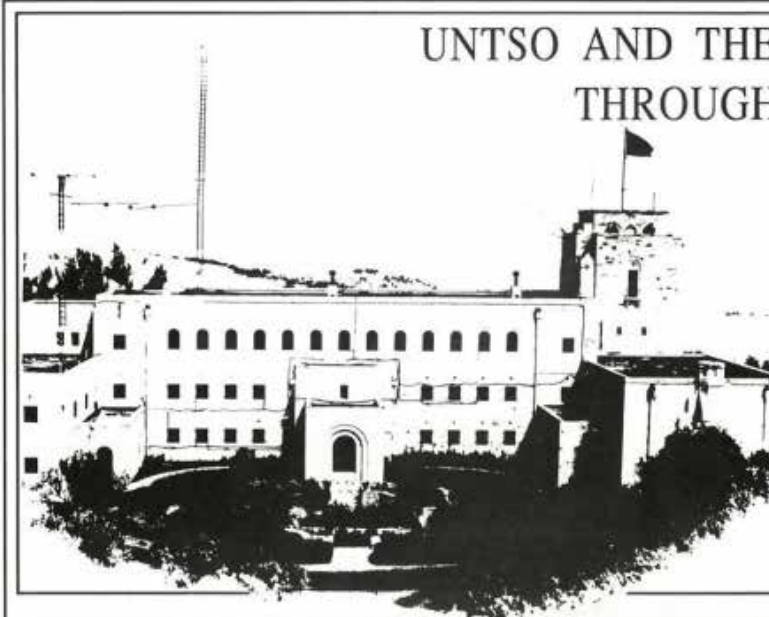
I remember that the explanation offered to the UN when any military or civilian was shot was the deranged soldier explanation. The shooting of the Canadian Colonel Flint springs readily to mind. I gathered that there was a lot of deranged soldiers in the area. Talking of derangement reminds me of a colleague of mine whose party piece on social occasions was to leap on a table and dance a jig while balancing a full glass of beer on his head, much to the admiration and awe of the assembled dignitaries. Indeed, many of us, myself included, tried to emulate this feat of dexterity, often with disastrous results, not to mention the waste of good beer.

But I digress, back to Government House. The COS at the time was Major-General E.L.M. Burns from Canada. A decent man who was known as Smiley Burns in the army because he was never seen to smile in his life. Another Canadian, Murray Anderson, was CAO. Abu Zaki presided over the dining room and I believe that the last of his cohorts, Speedy, is still working away in the canteen. Such then were some of my early memories of UNTSO. In November 1956 many of us were transferred to Cairo when the Suez business erupted. But that's another story.

photo: Mandelbaum Gate
(Gate of Tears)
UN Mt Scopus Convoy.



UNTSO AND THE LOCAL STAFF THROUGH THE EYES OF M. SHEHADEH



The office of the Senior Advisor was a billiard room; the finance section, travel, visa and general services offices served as the maid's and servants' quarters; the sergeant's office overlooking the lounge, was the music room; the cashier's and accounts offices were the laundry and linen storeroom; this is how M. Shehadeh, Senior Foreman, described Government House when it served the British High Commissioner's office prior to the establishment of UNTSO.

The Chief of Staff's office was the High Commissioner's office, whose wife worked from the office next door which is now the COS secretary's office. The present transport stores served as residence for the housekeeper and his wife; the green barracks were army guard quarters and the photo lab was home for the cook and his wife", Mr. Shehadeh recalled.

Mr. Shehadeh was employed in 1946 to fill in for a gardener who fell sick. He was only 17 years old then. A few months later he was transferred to work in the kitchen. Mr. Shehadeh witnessed G.H. change hands twice. First when the British handed G.H. over to the Red Cross and second when the Red Cross handed the premises over to the UN. He even served coffee to the joint Israeli Jordanian guard patrols prior to the

establishment of the field Service Security officers.

He spent more time in G.H. than at his home and accompanied the development and growth of the Local Staff with a substantial personal input. With the establishment of UNTSO, only 3 LS were employed. By 1960 the number rose to 46. By 1967, local recruits numbered 100 and in 1968 increased to 115. With the additional responsibilities of UNTSO the number reached 194 today. Up until 1973 all staff related matters were discussed and solved through personal contact. Mr. Shehadeh and other senior local staff acted as liaison between administration and staff for most of that period. The first salary scale for the LS asked to join the Pension Fund but were only admitted in 1971.

Following its participation in the UNJSPF in 1971, and due to the increasing number of local staff in UNTSO, the staff at large decided to establish their own recognized Staff Committee. In 1973 a selected group of staff made out the Constitution which was approved by the whole staff and elected their first committee in 1973.

Several staff chaired the committee from Mr. Nasri Nasr (now retired) to the current Chairman Mr. Kreitem. Mr. Shehadeh was on almost all

those committees. During the years, the staff committee devoted itself to improve the working conditions and safeguard the acquired rights for the welfare of the staff. At the earlier days it had to fight its way to achieve those goals. The staff committee managed to erase the barriers between staff and administration through open dialogues and managed through the years to establish a harmonious relationship with both the UNTSO administration and with headquarters New York officials based on mutual understanding and respect.

The UNTSO Local staff committee consists of 5 elected staff representatives and represents all UNTSO local staff in the Mission Area. Staff at the Outstations usually nominate one representative from each location to be also their liaison contact with the staff committee. The staff committee has close contact with staff committee in New York and with the staff committees in UNIFIL and UNDOF.

Mr. Shehadeh's long service is quite symbolic of how the Local Staff see themselves as providing a sense of stability and continuity for the mission as apposed to the International/Military and Civilian Staff who change quite frequently. Mr. Shehadeh will be retiring next year after hitting record time in serving at Government House.

The following article provides inside information on some aspects of the "traditional mode of life" in Ghana. Ghana contributes to UN operations in UNIFIL, UNIKOM, MINURSO, UNPROFOR and UNAMIR with 1173 military and civilian peace-keepers.

On 13 April 1993 I was installed the Chief of Domenase, a village in the Komenda District of Ghana, in a colorful ceremony. The occasion was attended by thousands of people throughout Ghana.

I was nominated by the kingmakers of the Royal Nsona Family of Domenase to which I belong, after the death of my predecessor in 1988. I was formally informed by the Head of the family, the Regent and the Queen mother and asked to prepare for the occasion anytime the family would be ready, or when the village would ask for their chief.

During my 1993 second quarter home leave I went home with my entire family for the first time in many years so that they could witness the ceremony and participate in it as well. A planning committee had been appointed and a program had been drawn.

The only major thing left was my arrival in Ghana so that final preparations could be made. All preparations were kept secret and I did not know anything about the planning when I went to the village on 5 April for the usual Easter family get-together.

The day after, I left the village early in the morning to visit my in-laws at Sekondi, about 30 miles away. At about 1300 hrs I saw a car approaching my in-laws' house. Then I recognized my senior brother, my uncle and the family linguist in the car. They were not cheerful and their facial expressions seemed to me as if someone was dead. My father-in-law received them as our custom demands, offered them water to drink and enquired from them their mission. My heartbeat was very fast as I expected the worse. The linguist then replied that the entire

family had assembled to discuss my late uncle's (my predecessor) estate. As custom demands I should be present to answer some questions to clear any doubts. As the same thing was done when my mother died I did not suspect anything regarding the chieftaincy installation. My wife decided to come with us. On entering the village I was surprised to see a large crowd at the outskirts jubilating. Suddenly it dawned on me that I was about to start a new life from that day.

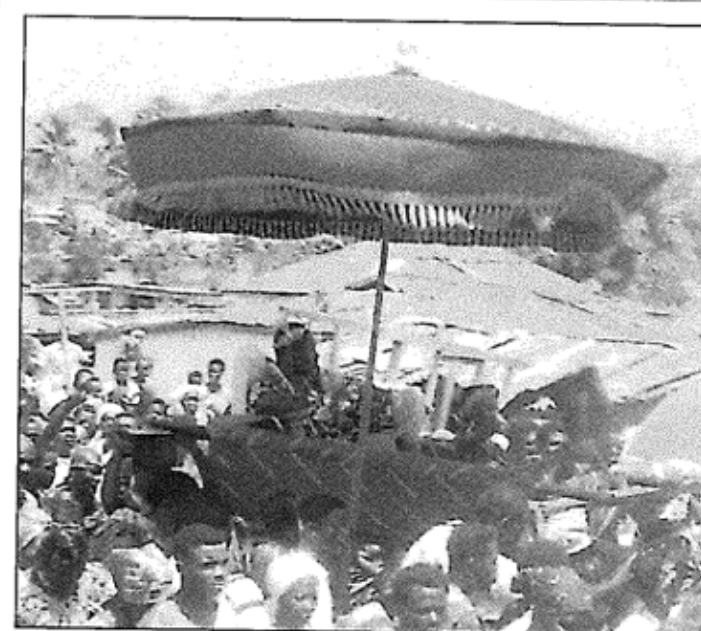
I was led to the place where my family, the various clan elders, the Komenda Traditional Council Representative and a very large crowd had assembled. Two men walked by my sides each holding one of my hands, while some women laid their clothes down for me to walk on. I was advised to walk slowly, gently and gracefully until we arrived at the



LETTER FROM A CHIEF

This is about the story of Bob Dadzie, FSO/UNTSO in 1993, who went to his country, Ghana, to become a Chief.

gathering. Women and children chanted: "here comes our chief, a deserving chief who did not buy his chieftaincy. He is a divine chief and has a divine right to the throne. He did not beg for it, nor did he steal the title. He did not fight for his chieftaincy. He is a chief because it is his right to be chief and he deserves it." I was introduced to the entire village by the head of my family as the one whom he had nominated to be the chief of the village. There was a loud applause of acceptance by the crowd. But the chief linguist, who is the spokesman of the village, had to announce the



Chief Nana Kow Baisie II carried aloft on the palanquin during the procession

acceptance in the customary manner. Immediately a symbol was tied on my right wrist and talcum powder was poured on me. I was carried shoulder high to the stool room.

Two big rams were slaughtered and libation was poured, invoking the spirits of our ancestors for their blessing, guidance and to give me wisdom to rule, and to direct me for a successful chieftaincy. I was given a new name, NANA KOW BAISIE II. The first Nana Kow Baisie, whom I was named after, was a great and brave warrior, and he lived about two centuries ago. I am expected to follow his footsteps.

I then began a week of confinement during which I did not see my wife and children. It was also the period of instructions. Among the many things that I was taught were how to dance as a chief, and how to speak and behave as a chief. From then onward no one should talk to me or shake hands with me directly. Visitors must go through a linguist before they can see me, talk to me or shake hands with me. Whilst in confinement, final preparations were made for the occasion.

From the early morning on 13 April 1993 the village population became ecstatic amid traditional drumming and dancing. I was so excited that I could not eat. My thoughts were concentrated on the events of the day. I saw

my wife and children for the first time in a week. At about 0900 hrs the Queen mother and two uncles came to dress me up for the occasion. Tens of pressmen and photographers interrupted us so that it took about three hours to decorate me with gold ornaments you see in the picture. At 1300 hrs I appeared in public and a ram was slaughtered, libation was poured and musketry was fired. I was put in a palanquin, which was carried by the sons of the male members of my family. A young girl was similarly decorated and placed in front of me in the palanquin. We started a procession, which seemed to me as the longest journey in my life, through the principal streets of the village with traditional drumming and dancing. From time to time I would get up and dance, whilst being carried in the palanquin. The women chanted as on 6 April: here comes our chief.... At last I was lowered upon arrival at the durbar grounds where other chiefs, dignitaries, former military colleagues and thousands of spectators were waiting. The brass band in attendance struck the tune "YEDI NKONIM" (which means we are victorious). Surely I was victorious. It was a joyous moment. Before I took my seat another ram was slaughtered and libation was poured again.

After several speeches, cultural display

and dancing I took the oath of allegiance to the people. The "Supi" of the Asafo Companies (that is, the Divisional Commander of the Traditional Army) swore first, to me, on behalf of the people: that whenever I call upon him, by day or night, rain or sunshine, on the land or in the sea, he will respond. This was done three times. I replied to the oath in the same manner thus: "I, Nana Kow Baisie II, Chief of Domenase, swear the oath of allegiance to the people of Domenase, that I will fulfil the customs and traditions inherited from our ancestors, that I will always respond to your call be it in the day or night, rain or sunshine, on the land or in the sea, except in sickness, God be my helper". (Also done three times).

Two weeks later I took a similar oath of allegiance to the Paramount Chief, who is my superior, and the entire Komenda state. The difference here is that in the Komenda State I am second to the Paramount Chief. In addition I am the Commander-in-Chief of the Traditional Army. My title in the entire state is the "Tufuhene" as it is called in some areas in Ghana).

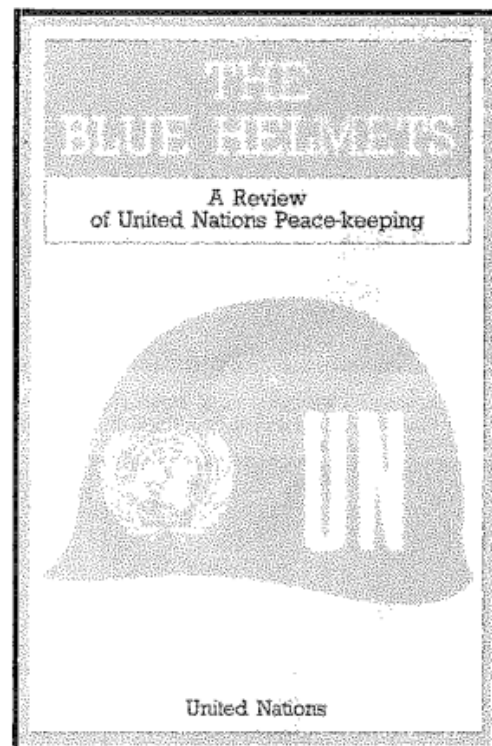
Unfortunately the Paramount Chief died six months after my installation, and in accordance with the traditional constitution I became the Acting President of Komenda Traditional Council. In my absence two people act for me. At the village level a Regent who is my uncle has been appointed, whilst at the Traditional Council the "Kyidomhene" (the rear guard or the home guard chief) acts for me. However, certain decisions are still referred to me or deferred till I go home.

After all the traditional requirements had been met, including approval from the National House of Chiefs I was gazetted by the Government of Ghana. Finally, I had to swear the oath of allegiance to the President of the State of Ghana, and I am yet to do that as my gazette is now published.

I hope to see many of you in my court or palace one day and allow me the pleasure of treating you to a real Ghanaian hospitality and culture. But a word of advice to you. Just remember not call me Bob Dadzie when in Ghana. That name is accepted only in the Field Service. However, former documents are still valid.

My Name is NANA KOW BAISIE II. You can simply call me

Nana



This material is taken from "The Blue Helmets," a 350-page comprehensive account of United Nations peacekeeping operations compiled and recently published by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in connection with last year's 40th anniversary of the United Nations. The book, with annexes on the mandates, composition and command of the six observer and seven peacekeeping forces' operations over the years, as well as maps for each operation, is the first such comprehensive account by the United Nations. It was written and published when UNTSO's present Senior Adviser, Mr. Keith Beavan, was in charge of the Department of Public Information section responsible for the issuance of the book.

UN Truce Supervision Organization



A. Introduction

The first peace-keeping operation in the Middle East was the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which continues to operate in the Middle East. It initially came into being during the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 to supervise the truce called for in Palestine by the Security Council. In 1949 its military observers (UNMOs) remained to supervise the Armistice Agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours which were for many years the main basis of the uneasy truce in the whole area. A unique feature of UNTSO is that its ac-

tivities have been and still are spread over territory within five States, and therefore it has relations with five host countries (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic).

Following the wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973, the functions of the observers changed in the light of changing circumstances, but they remained in the area, acting as go-betweens for the hostile parties and as the means by which isolated incidents could be contained and prevented from escalating into major conflicts.

UNTSO personnel have also been available at short notice to form the nucleus of other peace-keeping operations and have remained to assist those operations. The availability of the UNMOs for almost immediate deployment after the Security Council had acted to create a new operation has been an enormous contributory factor to the success of those operations. Rapid deployment of United Nations peacekeepers has always been essential to the success of any operation, since their actual presence becomes the initial deterrent to renewed fighting.

In the Middle East, groups of UNMOs are today attached to the peace-keeping forces in the area: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). A group remains in Sinai to maintain a United Nations presence in that peninsula. There is also a group of observers in Beirut, Lebanon.

The body of experienced and highly trained staff officers and its communications system were invaluable in setting up the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) at short notice during the time of the Suez crisis, as well as for the United Nations Operation in the Congo (now Zaire) in 1960, the observer group in Lebanon during the crisis of 1958, the United Nations Yemen observer group in 1963, UNEF II in Sinai in 1973, UNDOF the following year, and UNIFIL in 1978. They are used today in Iran and Iraq.

At the present time, the following countries provide military observers to UNTSO: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the USSR and the United States. UNTSO's authorized strength in 1985 was 298 observers.

As of early 1985, the total number of fatal casualties suffered by UNTSO since its inception was 24—both observers and civilian supporting personnel. Of the observers who died, one was assassinated (with the Mediator) and nine were killed in incidents involving firing or mines.



B. Supervision of the truce

The first observer group

In early May 1948, the Truce Commission established by the Security Council the previous month brought to the Council's attention the need for control-personnel for effective supervision of the cease-fire which the Council had called for when it created the Commission. As the situation worsened, the Commission, on 21 May, formally asked the Council to send military observers to assist it.

On 29 May, the Security Council, in calling for a four-week cessation of all acts of armed force and non-introduction of fighting personnel or war material into Palestine and Arab countries involved in the fighting, decided that the Mediator (Count Folke Bernadotte, of Sweden), in concert with the Truce Commission, should supervise the truce and be provided with a sufficient number of military observers for that purpose. Resolution 50(1948) formed the basis of what would become UNTSO.

After intensive discussions in the area, the Mediator reported a truce agreement, which went into effect on 11 June 1948.¹ Ralph J. Bunche, the then Personal Representative of the Secretary-General with the Mediator, was instrumental in putting into effect the arrangements for the group of military observers. These arrangements had to be made without previous guidelines and implemented within a period of less than two weeks between adoption of the Council's resolution and the effective truce.

The question of the nationality of the observers was resolved by the Mediator's requesting 21 observers each from the States members of the Truce Commission (Belgium, France and the United States), with a further five colonels coming from his own country (Sweden), to act

as his personal representatives in supervising the truce. The Mediator appointed one of them, Lieutenant-General Count Thord Bonde, as his Chief of Staff. The United States supplied 10 auxiliary technical personnel such as aircraft pilots and radio operators. The Secretary-General made available 51 guards, recruited from the Secretariat's security force at Headquarters, to assist the military observers.

While these arrangements were being made, the beginnings of what were to become different positions on the question of authority became discernible. The Soviet Union made known its views that selection of military observers should be decided by the Security Council, and expressed the hope that Soviet observers would be appointed. This view was not supported by the Council.

Administratively, the observers remained under their respective army establishments, receiving their normal remunerations from their Governments but getting a daily subsistence allowance from the United Nations, which also met extra expenses resulting from the mission. National uniforms were worn with a United Nations armband. (The distinctive blue beret with United Nations badge was not used until November 1956.) During their assignments with the Organization, the observers were to take orders only from the United Nations authorities. The parties to the conflict were required to co-operate with the observers, to whom the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations applied, and ensure their safety and freedom of movement.

The first group of 36 observers arrived in Cairo between 11 and 14 June and were immediately deployed in Palestine and some of the Arab countries. The number of observers was subsequently increased to 93—31 from each of the States members of the Truce Commission. Their activities, under the general control of the Secretary-General, were directed in the field by the Chief of Staff on behalf of the Mediator. For political and practical reasons, the Mediator clearly separated the truce operation from his mediation mission, with Haifa becoming the temporary headquarters for the former and the island of Rhodes remaining the base for the latter. Close liaison was maintained between the Commission, which supervised the truce in Jerusalem, and the Mediator, who supervised the remainder of the operations area. The functions of the observers and the operating procedures were laid down by the Mediator in consultation with the Secretary-General.



Method of operation

These observers were, and remain today, unarmed. They operated then, as they still do, with the consent of the parties and were dependent on the co-operation of the parties for their effectiveness. Thus they had no power to prevent a violation of the truce or to enforce any decisions. There was no element of enforcement in their functioning, although their very presence was something of a deterrent to violations of the truce and, acting on the basis of United Nations resolutions, they exercised a degree of moral suasion. In the case of any complaint or incident where they could not achieve a settlement between the parties on the spot, their only recourse was to report the matter to their supervisors and ultimately to the Mediator, who, in turn, at his discretion, could report to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council. Complaints from local civilians or from troops of the parties concerned were dealt with by observers on the spot, those from military commanders by an area commander or the Chief of Staff, and those from Governments by the Mediator himself. In cases requiring investigation, the inquiries were carried out by observers at the scene whenever possible.

The four-week truce expired on 9 July 1948. While the provisional Government of Israel accepted the Mediator's proposal for an extension, the Arab Governments did not. As soon as the truce expired, large-scale fighting erupted again between Arab and Israeli forces. On 15 July, in response to an appeal by the Mediator, the Security Council ordered a cease-fire, with a clear threat of applying the enforcement procedures of Chapter VII of the Charter if necessary (resolution 54(1948)). The Mediator set the time for commencement of the cease-fire at 1500 GMT on 18 July. Both parties complied with the Council's cease-fire order and all fighting stopped by the appointed time.



The second group

Since the new truce was of indefinite duration and was to remain in force until a peaceful adjustment of the situation in Palestine was reached, a more elaborate system of truce supervision was required. As the observers for the first truce and their equipment had already left the area, the new operation had to be created and equipped from scratch. However, profiting from the experience gained earlier, the Mediator was able to set up a larger and more effective operation in a relatively short time.

The Mediator requested the Governments of Belgium, France and the United States each to place at his disposal 100 observers for the supervision of the truce. By 1 August 1948, 137 of those observers had arrived in the mission area. Subsequently, a total of 682 observers and auxiliary technical personnel was requested by the Mediator, of which 572 were actually provided. Major-General Aage Lundström of the Swedish Air Force was appointed Chief of Staff, and he and nine other Swedish officers formed the Mediator's personal staff. The headquarters of the operation remained in Haifa and the general principles and rules devised for the first truce continued to apply. However, the deployment of observers underwent important changes. Observers were now divided into a number of groups assigned to each Arab army and each Israeli army group. One group was assigned to Jerusalem, one to cover the coast and ports of the truce area, one to control convoys between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and, later, an additional group was set up to cover airports in the truce area. The Chief of Staff was assisted by a Central Truce Supervision Board, presided over by him, and consisting of a senior officer from each member of the Truce Commission, together with the Chief of Staff's political adviser, who was a member of the United Nations Secretariat.

On 17 September 1948, the Mediator was assassinated in Jerusalem by Jewish terrorists said to belong to the Stern Gang. Ralph Bunche took over the Mediator's duties and was appointed Acting Mediator. Increased tension led to renewed fighting in October in Jerusalem, the Negev and, to a lesser extent, the Lebanese sector. The Security Council adopted a series of decisions and resolutions to restore the cease-fire and strengthen the observation operation.

The decisions and resolutions of the Security Council between October and December 1948 were the following: on 19 October, a call for an immediate and effective cease-fire in the Negev, to be followed by negotiations through United Nations intermediaries to settle outstanding problems in the area; also on 19 October, a call to the Governments and authorities concerned to grant United Nations observers freedom of movement and access in their areas of operation, to ensure their safety and to co-operate fully with them in their conduct of investigations into incidents; on 4 November, a call to Governments concerned to withdraw their troops to the positions they had occupied on 14 October and to establish truce lines and such neutral or demilitarized zones as desirable; and on 16 November, a request to the parties to seek agreement directly or through the Acting Mediator with a view to the immediate establishment of an armistice.



Acting Mediator's efforts

With the full support of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Acting Mediator resumed his mediating efforts, concentrating first on arranging indirect negotiations between Egypt and Israel. But his efforts were momentarily interrupted in late December, when hostilities erupted again between Egyptian and Israeli forces in southern Palestine.

Upon receipt of the Acting Mediator's report on this subject, the Security Council adopted another resolution on 29 December (resolution 66(1948)), by which it called upon the Governments concerned to order an immediate cease-fire and to facilitate the complete supervision of the truce by United Nations observers. An effective cease-fire was established by the Acting Mediator soon afterwards.

AN UNMO'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS

(edited)

Capt. K.K. Geertsen, Denmark

Introduction

When you are changing duty, appointment or posting — there are a lot of first impressions — the human intuition will help you to get a good start and a fast 'running in'. I will try to tell about my first impressions in the mission area.

After completing the UNMOG II 1987 (UN course Niinisalo, Finland) I felt 'the UN spirit coming up' and I was well prepared for the coming duty. I reached my goal — the opportunity to take part in the service of peace with United Nations — in the Middle East.



Preparing for Take Off

I spent a week at 'home' checking the last points of my preparatory list, saying goodbye to family and friends, packing personal effects, having the last vaccination, packing my POV and finally I was ready for 'take off'.

A remarkable feeling, longing to go abroad (the urge to travel or a idealistic dream?). Looking forward for a pleasant service together with friends and colleagues from 17 nations in a special duty, different and difficult from usual surroundings. New way of living — other religions and cultures, people, countries, customs and 'Do's and Don'ts'.



Meeting the Middle East

I arrived at the harbour of Haifa — Exiting the ferryboat, everybody wanted to go first. This was a very special chaotic behavior for a 'cool' Scandinavian.

The security and customs check and clearance for the POV gave no problems. Everything was polite and professional. There was no search of my POV or luggage, because of my UN 'quasi diplomatic' status.



Last Week-End as a Tourist

I departed the harbour of Haifa and decided to stay some days at the beach. So I went to Natanya (the Scandinavian pallor could use some sun) and booked a hotel. Then I phoned the duty officer at HQ Jerusalem and told him of my arrival in the Mission area. He requested me to visit HQ Sunday for picking up my 'welcome' envelope (I did not know my initial posting).

I spent a wonderful week-end at the beach (it was Yom Kippur).

Meeting Jerusalem

This is the town of history and major religions — the beautiful holy land. I went to HQ and received my initial posting — OGG-D — in Damascus, Syria. I was surprised to find that Government House is a famous building — like a castle!

The Danish UNMO (News Editor) in HQ had booked me at the Hotel Notre Dame and asked me for a meeting — very special atmosphere to stay in Jerusalem.

Per Krusager showed up and had really very interesting things to tell — ideas, advice, recommendations and insight in the coming duty. And the living conditions in Damascus.

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Reporting for Duty

Next morning, I reported to COS HQ Government House Jerusalem, had briefings, training and 'in checking'.

I spent 4 days together with the training team — their guidance and kindness was a big help working through the 'Jungle' of papers, forms, reports, meetings, briefings: whitecard, bluecard, orange card, driver's test, driver's permit, visa, passport, photo, house goods, UN-plates insurance, travel account etc. Confused!



I said goodbye to the training team and thanks ('see you'). They escorted me out of Jerusalem, heading for Damascus.

Trip to Initial Posting

On my own again — beautiful trip through the Jordan Valley to Tiberias. Meeting with 2 OGG UNMO's and a 'new comer' at Hotel Jordan River. They escorted me and my POV through A-B Gate and Quneitra road to Damascus.

Meeting Damascus

I have read my hand-outs from the UNMOC course, books and was informed about Syria and Damascus — but what a fantastic, charming town!

Meeting at ISMAC House

My sponsor (Danish officer) waited for me — had arranged a flat for me — invited me to see his family and dinner — I felt very welcome. Again I met kindness and guidance — good advice and recommendations for shopping and preparing for the first OP. How to do — and not to do.

Next Morning Incheck

Reported for duty to chief OGG-D, then training, paperwork and briefings. The most exciting was my first meeting with US and USSR officers.

Same day 'Happy Hour' some are leaving, some coming — life goes on.

Training Tour

BUNMO Tour B-side — with the Italian BUNMO I visited OP's on the B-side — OP's were in good conditions — calm AOS — visit to battalion HQ briefings — roads — junctions — signs — operational briefings — think and remember — while 'flying in low attitude in a deep wagoner.'

Patrol

Sunday morning early — Irish senior smoking pipe — coolbox with soft drinks — Junior map reading and doing the navigation — road conditions — left — right — UPS — LO in the back seat pumping his head on the roof. Sorry. Nice day — sunshine — calm — no problems — only the traffic, donkeys, jeeps, chickens and (take care!) small children.

Inspection

Foxtrott area — Finnish senior cool and proper — knew a lot of Arabic words, polite, smiling. Tea parties, with friendly officers — small talk — no restrictions very interesting duty.

OP

Together with a Canadian major, a real gentleman, and a pleasant teacher. How to cook and how to look.

A very special feeling on OP — good friendship. Mixed with darkness, stars, lights — daylight — blue sky — sun, rain, fog, discussions, cleaning up, generator noise POLLOG, BUNMO visit — one week with a lot of new impressions. I like it.



Summary

I hope that every UNMO — old and new — can recognize some of the impressions — I believe it's up to you — positive or negative — How to create a good and pleasant duty time-off in the Mission.

V. Hilsen

**This is the spirit of UNTSO.
UNTSO is about...**



...being genuine and right spirited



...connecting with people



...friendship



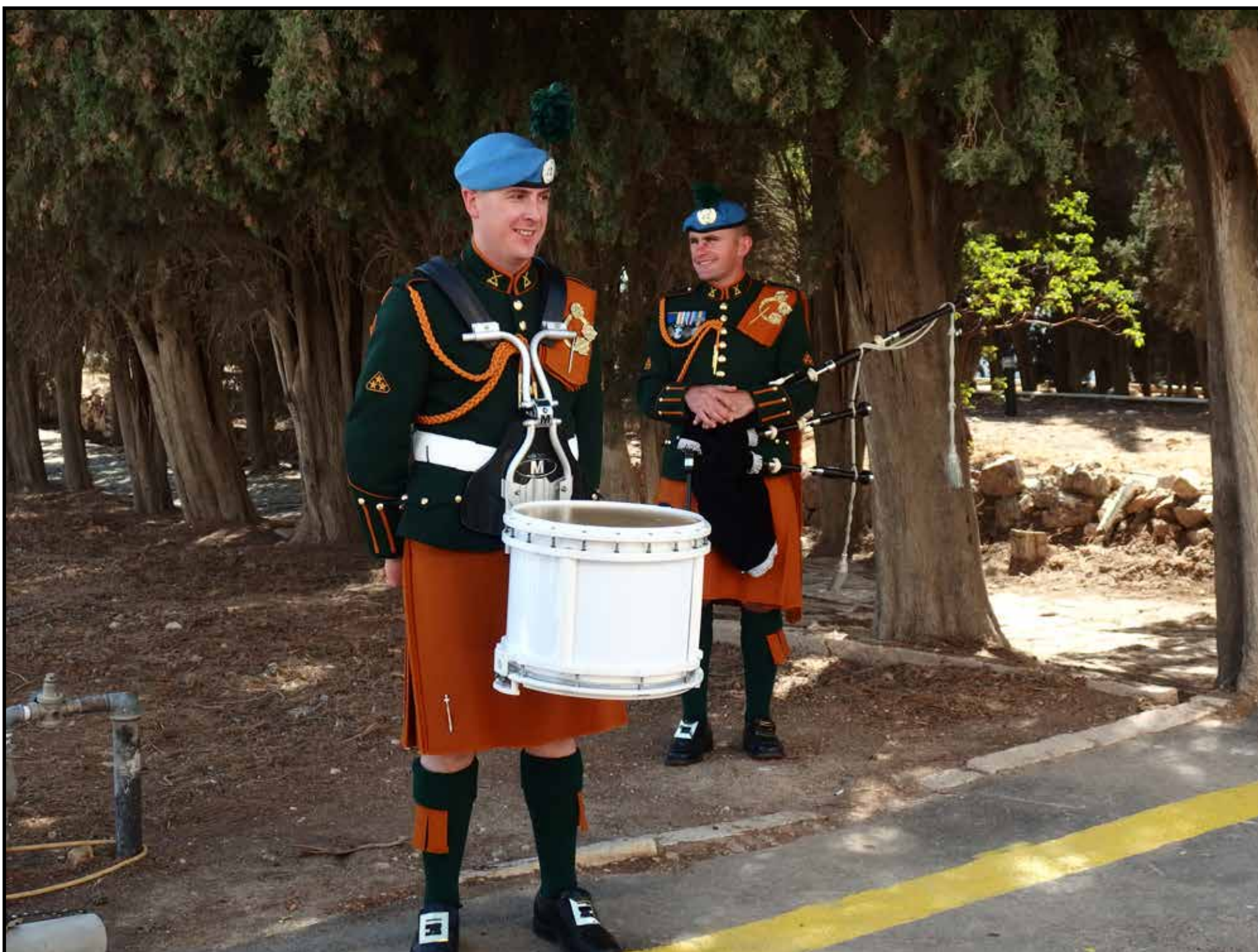
...family



...interacting with the local population at one end



...and the other



...traditions



...leisure



...camaraderie



...making the most of it



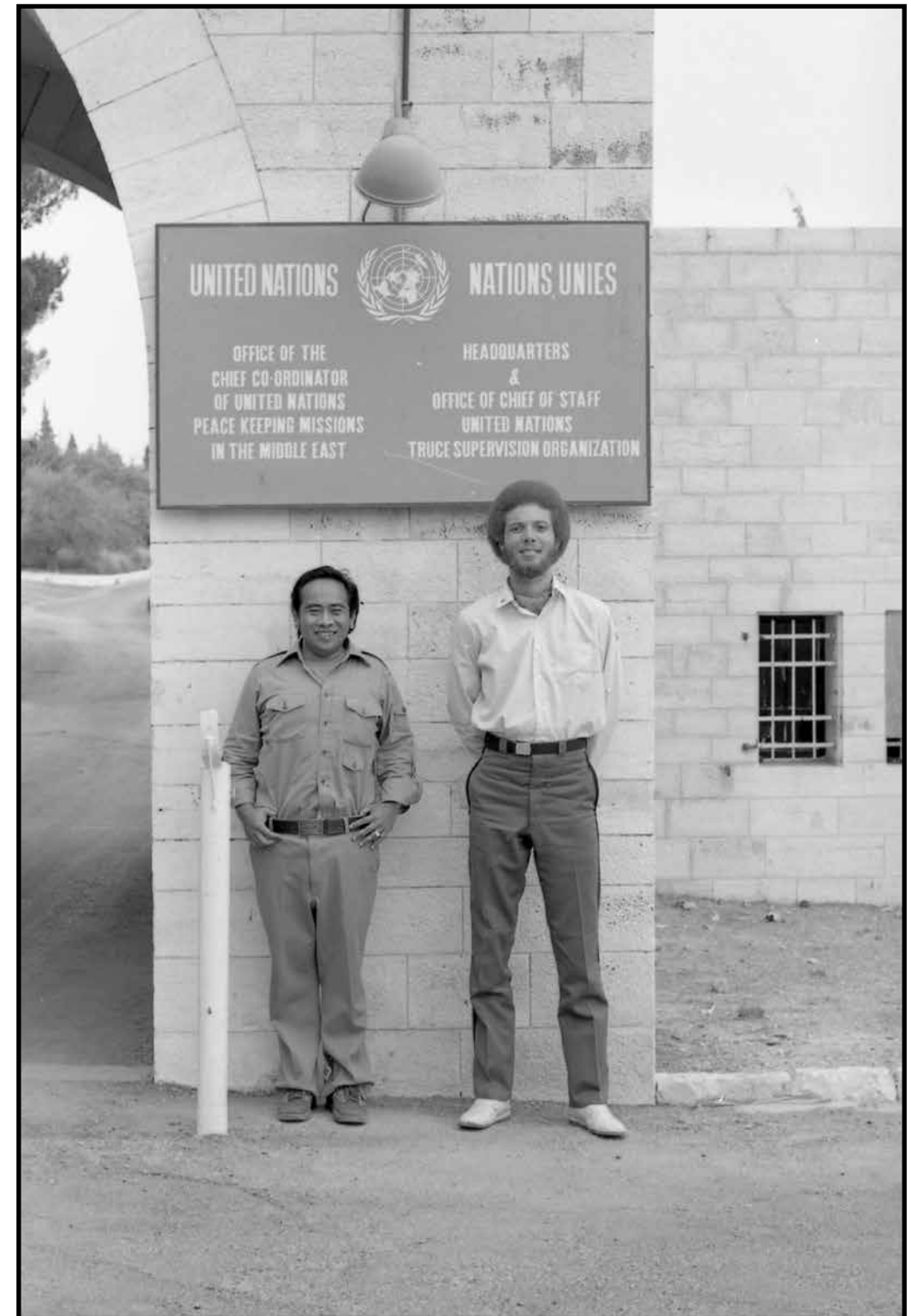
...risk



...danger



...safety



...diversity



...teamwork



...inclusivity



...commitment



...key messaging



...caring



...patrolling



...observing



...reporting



...communicating



...isolation



...mobility



...assessing achievements and challenges of the past as a platform for understanding the present and for improving mandate delivery moving forward

COMMEMORATIVE IMAGE

The design of the image of UNTSO's 75th anniversary was conceived by Michael Tarallo (Chief Mission Support) to commemorate the uniqueness, the spirit, the longevity, the commitment, the hope, and the complexities of the United Nations' first peacekeeping mission in pursuit of its mandate. The icons represent each of the five stakeholders to UNTSO's mission as mandated by the Security Council, embraced by the warmth of olive branches (the United Nations' aspirational symbol of peace and unity).

UNTSO's slogan 'First in peace' was conceived by Major General Patrick Gauchat, Head of Mission/Chief of Staff.

(Graphic design by Arie Santoso, ACS Design)



Original sketch



Digital design

UNTSO 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Chaired by UNTSO Chief Mission Support, Mr. Michael Tarallo, with Ms. Lindita Hoxha as Project Coordinator, UNTSO 75th Anniversary Committee was established to develop and coordinate the organization of events and activities related to UNTSO 75th peacekeeping anniversary commemoration.

We thank all members of the Committee:

Aref Awad, Ashraf Khalil, Avraham Segev, Ayako Yoshihara, Carolyne Ipaël, Catherine Nabwile, Lt. Col. Dainis Ozolins, Deema Ayyad, Efrat Cohen, El-Houcine Chairi, Lt. Col. Fredrik Holst, Galina Nedelkova, Ibrahim Abbassi, Ilir Kerceli, Jihad Siam, Juan Carlos Cunillera, Lena Zaki Bandali Bahbah, Lindita Hoxha, Madinah Traore Nansubuga, Maja Naulgan, Maria Wilkins, Manoj Giani, Lt. Col. Michael Aldridge, Michael Tarallo, Mousa Halase, Munther Mu' Akket, Nery Rolando Garcia Bernard, Olufunsho Egbedeyi, Col. Per Martin Nikolajsen, Rana Hannounéh, Sanja Petojevic, Simon Minassian, Tom Markushewski, Vladislav Zhukov.

The Committee has been supported by colleagues from Mission Support, Military, Security, Outstations, and Staff Welfare and Recreation Committee. We thank the following personnel:

Abeba Diresse Yifru, Alban Ramadani, Lt. Col. Alex Neukomm, Ani Koutoujian, Lt. Col. Bernard Behan, Christopher Palo, Edwin Nicolas, Eloi d'Hauthuille, Lt. Col. Frits Andersen, Gabi Abu Saada, Cdr Janne Larsen, Lt. Col. Jaroslaw Kacprzyk, Khalil Qariuti, Lt. Col. Leo Kaige, Osama Hamdan, Pamela Gidali, Massimo Moroldo, Mazen Sheikh, Michel Barsoum, Nasri Hanania, Maj. Pieter Bas Van Ingen, Poonam Saini, Rand Huseini, Revaz Kashia, Soheil Gharfeh, Tracey Walcott, Violette Younes, Lt. Col. Yeshe Yadav.

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Michael Tarallo, Lindita Hoxha, Carolyne Ipaël, Simon Minassian, Ashraf Khalil, Ibrahim Abbassi, Manoj Giani, Rana Hannounéh, Col. Per Martin Nikolajsen.



MAPS

