UNDOF’s Diplomats Day

22nd August 2017
Welcome Address from Force Commander & Head of Mission UNDOF

As Force Commander & Head of Mission I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our guests attending the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) Diplomat’s Day.


UNDOF continues to implement its mandate through the incremental phased return to the Bravo side. As we come to the end of Phase 1 and look forward to the deployment of the Nepalese Mechanised Infantry Company in Phase 2, we continuously remind ourselves that the safety and security of our personnel is paramount.

As FC/ HoM I invite you to interact with our Mission Leadership during today’s event and join us for lunch as guests of UNDOF.

Major-General Jai Shanker Menon
Force Commander & Head of Mission UNDOF
UNDOF’S DIPLOMATS DAY 2017

PROGRAMME

1030–1100  Arrival of Diplomats. Meet and Greet

1110-1115  Opening Address by Major-General Jai Shanker Menon Force Commander & Head of Mission UNDOF

1115-1200  UNDOF Mission Brief by Chief Operations Officer Lt Col Tadhg Murray

1200-1215  Host Nation Representative

1215-1300  Interactive Dialogue

1300       Closing Address by Major-General Jai Shanker Menon Force Commander & Head of Mission UNDOF

1310       Photo Session

1315       Light Lunch

Programme Concluded
UNDOF Background and Beginnings

On 6 October 1973, war erupted in the Middle East between Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Suez Canal area and the Sinai, and between Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights. On 24 October, as fighting between Egypt and Israel reached a critical stage, the Security Council decided to set up a second United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II). The Force was immediately moved into place.
between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Suez Canal area, and its arrival effectively stabilized the situation. However, no new peacekeeping operation at that time was established on the Syrian front.

In the Israel-Syria sector tension remained high, and from March 1974 the situation became increasingly unstable. Against this background, the United States undertook a diplomatic initiative, which resulted in the conclusion of an Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces [S/11302/Add.1, annexes I and II]. The Agreement provided for an area of separation and for two equal zones of limited forces and armaments on both sides of the area, and called for the establishment of a United Nations observer force to supervise its implementation. The Agreement was signed on 31 May 1974 and, on the same day, the Security Council adopted resolution 350 (1974) by which it set up the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).
On 3 June 1974, the Secretary-General appointed an interim commander of UNDOF who arrived in Damascus on the same day and immediately established a provisional headquarters in the premises of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission.

The interim Commander command over the 90 UNTSO observers detailed to UNDOF. Later the same day, advance parties of the Austrian and Peruvian contingents arrived in the mission area. They were joined on the following days by the remainder of the two contingents and the Canadian and Polish logistic elements. Some logistic support was provided by UNEF II.

By 16 June 1974, the strength of UNDOF was brought to 1,218 all ranks, near its authorized level of 1,250. The Force has since performed its functions effectively, with the cooperation of the parties. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained quiet. Both parties cooperate fully with the mission and for a number of years there have been no serious incidents.