

# UNDOF's Diplomats Day



22nd August 2017



## Welcome Address from Force Commander & Head of Mission UNDOF



**A**s 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.

The purpose of today's event is to communicate the current situation that pertains in the Mission's Area of Operations (AOR) and how UNDOF continues to implement its mandate outlined by Security Council resolution 350 (1974) in the Golan Heights. On the 30th June the UN Security Council renewed the Mis-

sion's mandate unanimously adopting resolution 2361 (2017) on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The 15-nation Council urged Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in the Force's AOR to halt all activities endangering United Nations peacekeepers on the ground.

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.

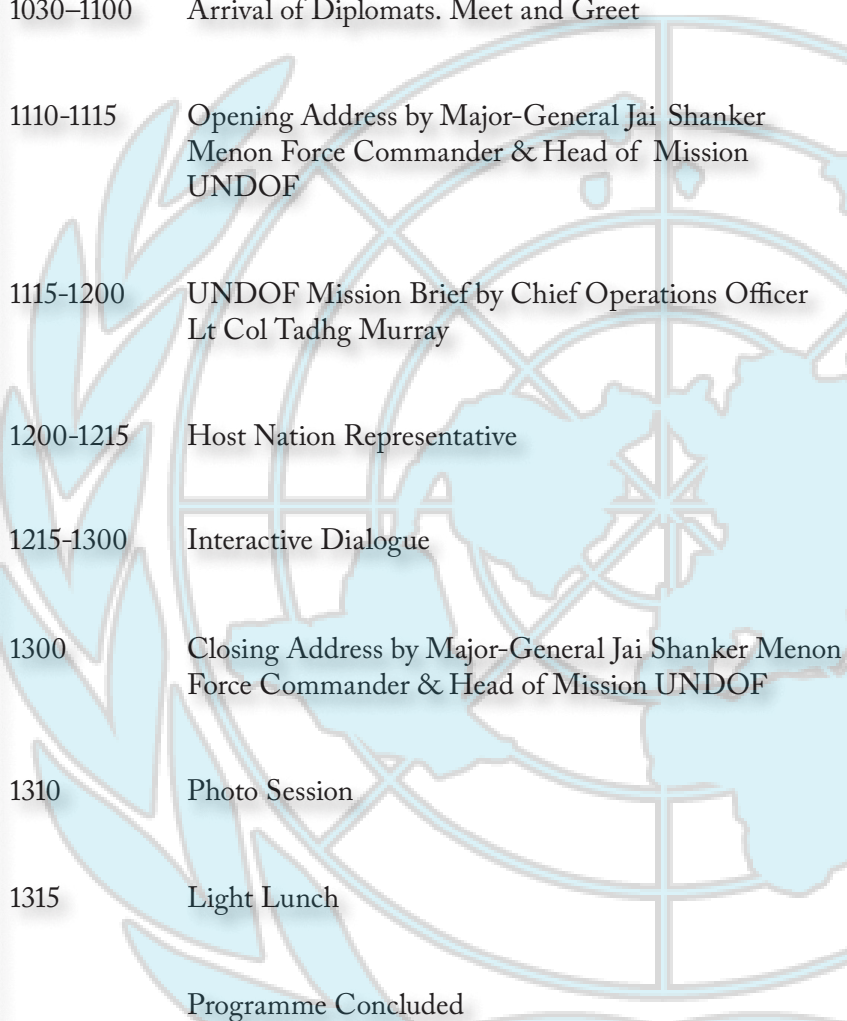
As FC/ HoM I invite you to interact with our Mission Leadership during today's event and join us for lunch as guests of UNDOF.

**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

### **Resolution 350 (1974)**

**of 31 May 1974**

*The Security Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General contained in documents S/11302 and Add.1, and having heard his statement made at the 1773rd meeting of the Security Council,

1. *Welcomes* the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, negotiated in implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's report and the annexes thereto and his statement;

3. *Decides* to set up immediately under its authority a United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to this effect in accordance with his above-mentioned report and the annexes thereto; the Force shall be established for an initial period of six months, subject to renewal by further resolution of the Security Council;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council fully informed of further developments.

*Adopted at the 1774th meeting by 13 votes to none.<sup>12</sup>*

## UNDOF Background and Beginnings

between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Suez Canal area, and its arrival effectively stabilized the situation. However, no new peace-keeping 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).



*UNDOF Ski patrol - 1975*

# UNDOF Background and Beginnings



*NEPCON soldiers patrolling Mount Hermon*

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 commanded 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.

