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Press Release

UNOGIL establishes new observation posts

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UNOGIL ESTABLISHES NEW OBSERVATION POSTS  
Night Observation and Air Reconnaissance Increase

(The following was received from a UN Information Officer with UNOGIL, Beirut.)

The United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon is continuing to establish new observation posts and so to increase its vigilance by night as well as by day along the borders, according to an announcement made by the Group today.

This is being made possible by the arrival of more observers, planes, vehicles and other materiel. During the last two weeks, the total number of observers has increased. Recent arrivals include 34 officers from Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, Peru, Ecuador, Thailand, Chile and Italy.

It will now also be possible to step up reconnaissance in the air because of the arrival within the last few days of eight more planes and six helicopters. The new two-seater planes are of the same type as the four L-19 Cessna aircraft which were made available to UNOGIL last month. The new Bell-47 helicopters are three-seaters and have longer range than the two Bell-47 two-seaters already in service. The Group now has at its disposal 16 planes and eight helicopters. Additional air personnel is on its way from Sweden and Italy.

UNOGIL now has five main stations in the field, with 16 substations and two outposts.

Under the control of the main station at Tripoli, in the northwestern region, there are substations at Cheikh Zenade (opened on 16 August); El Hissa (moved from Tel Abbas on 13 August); Notre Dame du Fort; Chandra; Beino (moved from Halba); Sir Danie, and Ehdén.

The substation at Baalbek, in the northeastern part of the country, has been raised to a main station, and has substations at Hermel, El Kaa, and El Laboue (opened on 13 August), and an outpost at El Kasser.

Outposts differ from outstations in that observers do not live there. However, the posts are usually maintained on a 24-hour basis by rotating teams of observers.

(more)

Chtaura, in the central Bekaa valley, carries on its observation work with the aid of substations at Aita-el-Fourkhar (moved from Rachaya on 13 August); Ain Zedbe and Maareboun, near the frontier (opened on 8 August), and an outpost at Masnaa.

Marjayoun, in the southeast, has two substations at Deir Mimass and Mejidie.

In the southwest, there is a substation at Jezzine, attached to the station at Saida.

The Group states that almost all the significant points on the frontier are now covered by UNOGIL outposts, some of them in tents, from where patrolling is taking place by day as well as by night. These ground patrols operate in close liaison with the air reconnaissance planes and helicopters, thus enabling UNOGIL to carry out its mandate with still greater efficiency.

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