

### 3(g) The Compliance Record 1976-80

The early warning component of the verification system in the Sinai operated from February 22, 1976, to January 25, 1980. During this period 90 violations were reported to Egypt, Israel and the UN of which 67 were attributed to Israel; Egypt accounted for only 2 violations. Nineteen unidentified aircraft overflights and two unauthorized personnel intrusions accounted for the remainder. The high number of Israeli violations may be explained by the fact that the Israeli limited forces zone shared a common border with the early warning zone, whereas the buffer zone separated the early warning zone from the Egyptian limited-force zone.<sup>24</sup> For the most part, all violations were deemed to be small infractions easily detected, identified and corrected with the assistance of the highly effective reporting and consultative components of the verification system. In its four years of operation, the verification system managed successfully to safeguard the integrity of the Sinai II Agreement. The use of the Joint Commission (see Table 1) by the parties to resolve ambiguous situations also greatly enhanced the confidence of the parties in the new security arrangements in the Sinai. The task assigned to the Joint Commission by Article VI of the Sinai II Agreement was to consider any problem arising from the Agreement and to assist the UNEF in the execution of its mandate. The commission met under the chairmanship of the Chief Coordinator of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in the Middle East or his representative. It was composed of each party to the Agreement.

### 4. The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty: Consolidating Past Achievements, 1979-82

#### 4(a) Overview

The second phase of Sinai verification operations began after the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty on March 26, 1979. Following 30 years of conflict, Egypt and Israel agreed to formalize security arrangements along their common border. Complete withdrawal by Israel from the Sinai was, however, contingent upon the guarantee of satisfactory security arrangements. In accordance with the Treaty, the parties agreed to the stationing of UN personnel in the area to supervise the implementation of various Treaty terms and to prevent any violations.<sup>25</sup>

Unfortunately, even before the actual signing of the Peace Treaty, the Soviet Union insisted that it would veto the participation by the UN in the implementation of the Treaty. In anticipation of the Soviet veto, which reflected Moscow's displeasure with the Camp David accords, and unilateral American mediation efforts in particular, the US provided the parties with a letter (as part of the Peace Treaty package) in which Washington agreed that if the UN Security Council failed to establish and maintain the arrangements called for in the Treaty the US "would be prepared to take those steps necessary to ensure the establishment and maintenance of an acceptable alternative multinational force".<sup>26</sup>

As expected, when the UNEF II mandate was to be renewed on July 24, 1979, the Security Council refused to extend its stay in the Sinai, thereby ending the role the UNEF had played since 1974. At the same time, Israel objected to the deployment of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) on the grounds that UNTSO was unable to perform the functions given to the "forces and

<sup>24</sup> United States Sinai Support Mission, *Watch in the Sinai*, p. 30. There were more Israeli violations due to the location of the early warning system within the Sinai buffer zone. Because the eastern end of the early warning area was contiguous with the western edge of the Israeli limited forces zone, shallow penetrations by Israelis into the early warning area were readily detected. The western boundary, however, was approximately five miles east of the Egyptian limited forces zone so possible similar penetrations of the buffer zone by the Egyptians were beyond the early warning area and hence not detected. See United States Sinai Support Mission, *Report to the Congress*, April 13, 1977, p. 7.

<sup>25</sup> Mala Tabory, *The Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai: Organization, Structure and Function* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1986), p. 2.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

