

resolve problems that might arise, and to prevent situations resulting from errors or miscalculations. Unresolved matters were to be referred to higher military authorities. Both Egypt and Israel established a Liaison Office headed by a military officer. A direct telephone link was set up between the two liaison offices and each also had a direct link to the UN command.

From April 1980 to April 25, 1982, 29 violations were cited by the inspection teams; 27 were attributed to Egypt and 2 to Israel.³⁶ None, however, were deemed serious enough to undermine the integrity of the Peace Treaty regime.

4(d) *Phasing Out of the SFM: April 1982*

At the time the Peace Treaty was signed, it was presumed the UN would provide a peace-keeping force to supervise the security arrangements in the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal on April 25, 1982. When it became apparent the UN would be unable to fulfil this role, American, Egyptian and Israeli officials agreed to the establishment of an alternative multilateral force. On August 3, 1981, the parties signed a Protocol to the Peace Treaty leading to the creation of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in which US participation was requested by Egypt and Israel.³⁷ Beyond contributing an infantry battalion, a logistics unit and a civilian observer group, the US also provided the first Director General of the force, Leamon R. Hunt.

The Sinai Support Mission (SSM) contributed much technical and organizational expertise to the critical start-up period of the MFO during which it was essential to achieve the timely and orderly transfer of the SFM's verification responsibilities to the new observer group. Moreover, the SSM staff assisted the Director General's office in the administrative and legal aspects of planning the MFO. Finally, the SSM director served as senior advisor to the US delegation in negotiations leading to the creation of the multinational force.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

