

ground patrols was judged to a major part in the success of UNOGIL.

The Observer Group reported that there was no evidence of the infiltration which the Lebanese Government had charged against the United Arab Republic (UAR) at the end of the summer of 1958. This finding was disputed by the Lebanese, but their protestations were soon overtaken by other events. Specifically, a July coup in Iraq had destabilized the entire region prompting the US to send troops to Lebanon to prop-up the Government there. Though it had been established for a very different purpose, UNOGIL was used to assist in calming the situation in the country, and eventually assisted in the US withdrawal in October. UNOGIL itself was disbanded in November.

UNYOM

Aerial reconnaissance was next used in peacekeeping in the Middle East when a UN observation mission was sent to Yemen in 1963, following a coup in that country. The leaders of the coup, a group of army officers supported by Egypt, soon found themselves unable to hold the countryside, which was in the hands of those who supported the Yemeni Royal family and were backed by Saudi Arabia. The frustration of the new government soon lead it to threaten an expansion of the war into Saudi Arabia in an effort to cut the Royalist supply-lines. Given the prospect of a wider war, and the danger of outside interference to protect the Saudi oil fields, the Secretary-General, Mr. U Thant, began efforts to reach a solution.¹⁰

After some months of negotiation, Egypt and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to suspend their activities in Yemen and allow the indigenous factions to resolve the dispute themselves. An integral part of the Disengagement Agreement was the creation of an Observer Mission to report on whether the Egyptian army was withdrawing from Yemen, as promised, and whether the Saudis had taken steps to prevent the Royalists using their territory as a base of operations.

Accordingly, the UN Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM) was established. The Mission consisted of six observers based at the main Red Sea port through which the Egyptians had promised to withdraw their army, to observe the withdrawal; a Yugoslav reconnaissance unit of 114 men, who patrolled a 40 kilometre wide buffer zone along the northern Yemen-Saudi border; a headquarters unit of 28 civilian and military staff; and an aerial unit of 50 Canadians who serviced and flew two Caribou transports and six

¹⁰ Background to the crisis may be found in Jones, P. "UNYOM: The Forgotten Mission" Canadian Defence Quarterly, vol. 22, no. 1, 1992.