

country considered too rugged for ground patrols. They had the secondary function of providing backup for ground patrols in other areas.³

A measure of the utility of the aerial patrols can be seen in the fact that, though the small aerial contingent (less than 100 personnel) consumed over a third of the operations budget (as opposed to the ground patrols which took 3,000 personnel), the UNEF resisted all efforts to cut-back on aerial operations.⁴ By 1965 the pressure for cost reductions in UNEF was intense, owing to political pressures at the UN. A Survey Team appointed by the Secretary-General to study UNEF operations recommended that no cuts be made to the aerial contingent, but also ruled out an increase in the size of the contingent. It had been thought that such an increase might make possible further cuts to the more labour intensive ground patrols. In the Team's opinion, such a decrease in ground operations would have been unwise in that it would have reduced the UNEF's ability to mount a credible physical barrier to incursions into UNEF controlled territory.⁵ This finding points out the fact that aerial patrols themselves are not sufficient to engender a feeling of security. Rather, they must be complimented by a ground presence of sufficient size and political authority to meet an incursion, or to investigate suspicious activity. The UNEF's aerial contingent remained stable until the Force was disbanded in 1967.

UNOGIL

The next example of aerial reconnaissance being used in the region came in Lebanon in 1958 in response to a domestic political crisis in that country. The issue was brought before the Security Council on 11 June, 1958. With the consent of both Lebanon and the United Arab Republic (UAR) the Council voted that day to dispatch urgently to Lebanon an observation group "...So as to ensure that there is no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other materiel across the Lebanese borders."⁶

³ See UN Security Council document A/5494, Report of the Secretary-General, 1963 para. 4.

⁴ A/C.5/1001, Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNEF Operations, 2 December, 1963. Quoted in Higgins op cit pp. 310-312.

⁵ A/C.5/1049, Survey of the UNEF: Report of the Secretary-General, 13 December, 1965. Quoted in Higgins, op cit, pp.313-323.

⁶ More on the circumstances surrounding the creation of the Group may be found in Higgins op cit, pp. 535-547. See also Blue Berets, op cit, pp. 175-178.