

1956 Defusing the Suez Crisis and introducing the modern-day concept of UN peacekeeping operations, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs (SSEA), Lester B. Pearson, initiates a UN Resolution establishing the UN Emergency Force (UNEF-I) to supervise withdrawal of French, Israeli and British troops from Egyptian territory and subsequently observe demarcation lines and the frontier in Sinai between Israeli and Egyptian forces. General Burns is appointed UNEF's Chief of Staff.

1957 Lester B. Pearson receives the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to UN peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East.

1956-67 Canada contributes signals and air transport units, numbering some 1000 of the 6000-troop total in UNEF-I.

1967

June The Six-Day War in the Middle East: Israel occupies East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, part of the Golan Heights and Sinai.

July Canada votes in favour of UN General Assembly Resolution 2253, which condemns the unilateral alteration by Israel of the status of Jerusalem.

November Canada, as a member of the UN Security Council, votes for Resolution 242, which recognizes the right of all states to exist within secure and recognized boundaries and the need for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the recent conflict.

1973

October The third Arab-Israeli War (the "Yom Kippur War") is followed by the establishment of UNEF-II, mandated to supervise the Israeli-Egyptian ceasefire and troop withdrawals. UNEF-II was withdrawn in 1979 following the Camp David Accords. Canada contributed 1150 men to the 6000-troop force.

The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 338, calling for the implementation of Resolution 242 and the start of "negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East." This principle has been a consistent feature of Canada's Middle East policy.

1974 The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is put in place to control a neutral zone set up under the agreement establishing Israeli-Syrian disengagement in the Golan Heights following the 1973 war. This operation remains in place today, with 180 Canadian troops providing communication, logistical and technical services to the 1330-member force.