

one exception. They have been involved in every one of them.

They have been regarded as one of the best members of the UN on peace-keeping, development, all of the good things. They used to take a more active part in disarmament than they do now.

JK: Had the Canadians all along felt that the UN ought to have some kind of forces available. Had this been a long term idea?

Epstein: Yes, absolutely. I understood it from talking to Mike Pearson. He said, "Look, Canada is in an awkward position. We have our ties with the British and with the French. We are part of the Commonwealth, but we have strong economic ties with the United States. If the British and the United States are on the same side of any question it is very hard for us to maneuver. When they are not on the same side then we can use the UN card and that will give us a real role. The UN card, anyhow, gives us a chance to resist direct pressures from the Americans or the British." That's understandable. Mike Pearson was a good man and he had a strong belief in the UN. He absolutely believed that it was in Canada's best interest that the UN should be strong and active and powerful. So, he came back with this paper in his pocket.

They had to go through the General Assembly to set up this United Nations Emergency Force. That night when they were