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**CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST**

Peacekeeping has given Canada extensive and continuing contact with the Middle East since 1954. Indeed, Canada played a central role in defusing the Suez Crisis and introducing the modern-day concept of UN peacekeeping in 1956. Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his involvement in that breakthrough. Canada has participated in every United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Middle East region.

Currently, Canada is participating in the following peacekeeping and other related missions in the Middle East and Maghreb:

**\*UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO):** observing and reporting on 1948 armistice and violations in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; from 1954 to present; 13 Canadian personnel currently assigned.

**\*United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF):** supervising Israeli-Syrian disengagement in Golan Heights; from 1974 to present; 180 Canadian personnel currently serving.

**\*Multinational Force and Observers (MFO):** monitoring disengagement zones between Israel and Egypt under Camp David Accords; from 1986 to present; 27 Canadian personnel currently serving.

**\*UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM):** deployed in Kuwait in connection with Gulf War ceasefire; from May 1991 to present; 45 Canadian personnel currently serving.

**\*United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM):** investigating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction pursuant Gulf War ceasefire agreements; Canadian personnel have participated in many of the 45 international inspections in Iraq to date.

**\*Mission des Nations Unies pour l'organisation d'un référendum au Sahara Occidental (MINURSO):** mandated to conduct a referendum on Western Saharan independence or integration with Morocco; 33 Canadian personnel currently serving.

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