

with Canada, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In addition to doing anything we can as a member of the United Nations to prevent a conflict between two members of the Atlantic coalition, we also wish to play our part in rendering whatever assistance we can to restore peace and order to Cyprus, which is a fellow member of the Commonwealth of Nations. There is every humanitarian reason . . . for doing what we can to halt violence and bloodshed on that beautiful and once happy island. We in Canada have always regarded participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations as a fundamental obligation of United Nations membership, as our service in Korea, Congo, the Middle East, Kashmir and Indochina testifies.

Parliament approved the motion unanimously and, such was the state of readiness of the Canadian armed forces, which had designated a standby battalion to be available for United Nations service, that an advance party of the Canadian contingent was able to leave for Cyprus by aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force the same day. The remainder of the contingent was airlifted to Cyprus during the following week, and their heavy equipment followed shortly after aboard HMCS "Bonaventure". At the same time, the Government opened a resident diplomatic mission in Cyprus to keep it informed of all aspects of the situation there.

The Canadian contingent sent in March was composed of the First Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment and of a reconnaissance squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. These units served in Cyprus until September, when the contingent was rotated and they were replaced by the First Battalion of the Canadian Guards and a reconnaissance squadron of the Lord Strathcona Horse (Royal Canadians). The RCAF participated by operating a weekly flight between Trenton and Nicosia and provided transportation for the rotation of the Canadian contingent in September.

On December 4, 1964, Canada's contingent totalled 1,146 officers and men and was the largest contribution to the 6,100-man Force. Ireland supplied 1,060 troops, Britain 1,049, Denmark 996, Finland 962, Sweden 844, and Austria 48. In addition, there were 174 civilian police — 40 each from Australia, Denmark and Sweden, 34 from Austria, and 20 from New Zealand. The Canadian contingent was deployed along the strategic Kyrenia Road, linking Nicosia with Kyrenia on the north coast, with the task of operating a convoy system on that road. It was also responsible for the important Kyrenia Pass and the St. Hilarion areas. Until the beginning of December it patrolled the "green line", which divides the Greek-Cypriot from the Turkish-Cypriot sectors of Nicosia, but in December this responsibility was given to other contingents and the Canadian contingent assumed the responsibility for the Western sector of the Nicosia zone. In addition, Canada provided the commander and most of the headquarters staff of the Nicosia zone and contributed a considerable number of personnel to the UN Force headquarters in the capital city.