
CONTEXT



CONTEXTE

CANADA AND PEACEKEEPING

Canada is proud of its distinctive record in preserving world peace and fostering global security. In fact, it is the only country that can claim to have participated in almost every peacekeeping mission organized under the auspices of the United Nations. Canadian troops have also been involved in truce supervisory and observer forces outside the UN umbrella.

As a middle power with no colonial history, Canada has always been a welcome participant in multinational peacekeeping forces. Its troops have a long, well-deserved record of objectivity and respectability; they are highly specialized and proficient in such critical areas as transport, communications and logistics.

Public opinion polls consistently show overwhelming support for peacekeeping efforts. In the January 1994 National Angus Reid Poll, 76 per cent of Canadians surveyed said that they support the United Nations' peacekeeping efforts.

Currently, 3.6 percent of all peacekeepers on duty in the world are Canadian. That translates into some 2900 Canadian peacekeepers in missions around the globe.

A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION

Since 1947, more than 90 000 Canadians have participated in UN and non-UN peacekeeping missions. A source of national pride, peacekeeping is a significant aspect of Canada's foreign and defence policy.

Canada has actively participated in virtually all UN peacekeeping efforts. It sent troops to Kashmir (1949-79), West New Guinea (1962-63) and Yemen (1963-64). Canadian military personnel were also dispatched to the politically delicate operation of clearing the mercenaries out of Katanga and securing the territorial integrity of the former Belgian Congo (1960-64). They have stood between Egyptians and Israelis in the Sinai (1956-67, 1973-79, 1986-) and assisted in Namibia's transition to independence (1989-90).

Canadian troops have also been involved in peacekeeping operations outside the UN. These include the International Observer Team to Nigeria (1968-69); two truce supervisory operations in Indochina (1954-73); the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai (1986-present); and the ongoing European Community Monitoring Mission in former Yugoslav republics and neighbouring states(1991-1994).

Under the aegis of the United Nations, some 27 000 Canadian Armed Forces personnel fought in the Korean War from 1950 to 1954. Although the Korean operation did not fall within the current definition of a peacekeeping mission, it nonetheless represented a major action by the UN to restore peace.

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