

## Peacekeeping

Canada is proud of its distinguished record in preserving world peace and fostering global security. Since 1956, when Lester Pearson, then Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, proposed the idea of a United Nations peacekeeping force to help resolve the Suez crisis, Canada has participated in virtually every UN peacekeeping operation.

In the last two or three years, however, the number of peacekeeping operations under the UN have increased dramatically. Canada has maintained its contribution accordingly; 3.6 per cent of all peacekeepers currently deployed in the world are Canadian. Overall, 2,400 Canadians are participating in peacekeeping missions around the world.

The resources of the UN and participating states are being stretched; the requirement for peacekeepers has grown sixfold in the last three years. The current operations in former Yugoslavia alone require US\$1.5 billion a year. The UN peacekeeping budget in 1993 was US\$2.5 billion. Over the next two or three years, the financial needs of the UN, to cover the costs associated with current and predictable peacekeeping operations, will exceed US\$3.5 billion per year.

The strain on UN resources and management has begun to show. However, Canada believes that the UN still provides the most effective means of achieving global peace and security. That is why Canada supports the secretary general's report, *Agenda for Peace*.

The report captures the complex reality of the post-Cold War era and recommends the instruments—peacekeeping, peacemaking, enforcement, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding—and the resources needed to prevent, manage and solve conflicts. Implementing these proposals would require member states to share financial and human resources burdens equitably. In this endeavor, the secretary general will need the full support of the main contributors, particularly the G-7 countries, who collectively provide 65 per cent of the assessed contributions to the UN.

In addition to participating in current peacekeeping missions, Canada has already taken a number of other steps to address the secretary general's concerns. We have provided an expert to assist the Secretariat in developing a stand-by program, and we are discussing with the UN a new proposal to provide stand-by forces. Canada is also sponsoring a program to develop the UN's capacity to provide logistical support for peacekeeping operations. In April 1994, we hosted a three-day meeting of 23 member states to discuss peacekeeping issues.