

## 26. PEACEKEEPING AND OBSERVATION

### Background

In the late 1940s four international observer missions were established under UN Security Council auspices to monitor conflicts in the Balkans, Indonesia, the Middle East and Kashmir. The role of these missions was limited to observation, investigation and reporting by unarmed military officers.

Since the establishment of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in 1956, ten peacekeeping and observation missions have been fielded by the United Nations. The most prominent peacekeeping missions outside the UN have been those in Indochina, Chad, Lebanon and Egypt.

Canada has been active in the creation and operation of multilateral peacekeeping forces, playing a key role in the establishment of UNEF and participating in all UN operations since that time. Canada has also contributed to several non-UN operations: the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), created in 1954 to supervise the ceasefire in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam; its successor, the International Commission for Control and Supervision (ICCS), created in 1973; the Observer Team to Nigeria (OTN), created in 1968 to supervise the election after the Nigerian civil war; and the Commonwealth Monitoring Force established in 1979 to monitor the elections in Zimbabwe.

Canada currently participates in three UN peacekeeping missions as well as one non-UN mission. Canadian troops in the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) are responsible for policing the ceasefire and resolving local inter-community disputes in Sector Four, corresponding roughly to the old city of Nicosia. These tasks are carried out by one infantry battalion and by a small unit at UNFICYP Headquarters, totalling 515 Canadians. The UN Security Council renews the operation's mandate every six months at which