

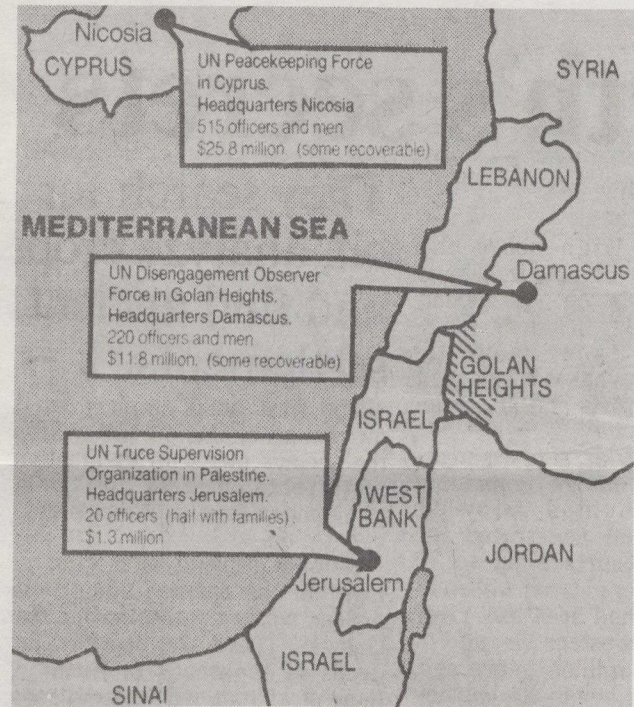
Canada's peacekeepers — where are they?

In Jerusalem, 20 Canadian officers monitor the ceasefire between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. They are part of the 298-strong UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which is supported by 17 nations. This force dates back to 1948, the year of the war between the Arab states and Israel, when the Jewish state declared its nationhood.

In Damascus, 220 Canadian troops provide logistics, communications and technical support for an international force numbering 1 265 that includes troops from Austria, Finland and Poland. Called the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), it monitors the 1973 ceasefire between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights following the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

In Cyprus, 515 Canadians are part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), 2 287 strong. The other nations involved are Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Britain, all of which contribute more than 300 troops. A small contingent from Finland and Sweden also provides a few UN civilian police officers.

The costs to Canada for all United Nations peacekeeping operations throughout the world in fiscal year 1983-84 will be close to \$34 million. The force in Cyprus alone costs \$25.8 million.



in March 1978. The Canadian government agreed to supply a communications unit of about 177 men for six months only, since Canadian logistic capabilities were already stretched to the limit by continued peacekeeping involvement in the Sinai and on the Golan Heights.

The Canadian hesitancy to make a long-term commitment of men and materiel in Lebanon was largely due to the excessive burden of participation elsewhere. But it was also due to an increasing concern among Canadians that peacekeeping alone does little more than maintain a *status quo* until another explosive situation develops.

Peacemaking equally important

Canada believes therefore that the task of peacemaking is equally important to that of peacekeeping. In Egypt during the Suez crisis, Lester Pearson said: "We must now press on with the greater and perhaps even more difficult task of a political settlement which will be honourable and just, and provide hope for security and progress for millions in this part of the world who have not known them in these troublous and distracting years... Until we have succeeded in this task of a political settlement, our work today and the ceasefire of yesterday remain uncompleted."

With over 20 years of experience as a peacekeeper, Canada has been an active proponent of reform in the ways of



Two members of Canada's peacekeeping force in the Middle East at work anchoring an antenna. Today, there are 755 Canadians taking part in peacekeeping operations in the Middle East and Cyprus.

peacekeeping and peacemaking. It has periodically submitted detailed proposals to the UN Committee of 33 concerning the practical aspects of peacekeeping. Furthermore, Canada may well be asked to contribute to a UN transition assistance group that would be established when a negotiated Namibian settlement is achieved.

"Canadians have participated in 15 UN peacekeeping forces and observation teams. Peacekeeping can be an important part of promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes. The presence of the UN Force in Cyprus, for example, has prevented a recurrence of intercommunal fighting and has helped to maintain law and order. There is still, however, no solution to the fundamental problems of the island. The Secretary-General and his representative have recently provided useful ideas on how a settlement can be reached. But until the parties themselves are prepared to make a serious commitment to negotiations, no just and lasting settlement can be found. Peacemaking must be seen to go hand-in-hand with peacekeeping."

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs
Allan J. MacEachen
UN General Assembly
September 17, 1983

Canadian Forces