

Canada's role in the development of peacekeeping methods was more prominent in the Suez crisis. Here we took a lead, in an agonizing situation, where there were important differences of opinion between us and our closest friends, in order to accomplish a series of purposes. Our proposal to set up the United Nations Emergency Force was designed to, and did in practice, provide our friends in Britain and France with a face-saving and politically feasible way out of an untenable position into which they had got themselves. It hereby also saved Egypt from further hostilities. It prevented a chain reaction of resignations from the Commonwealth. It preserved the United Nations and respect for international law. Indeed it greatly strengthened the UN by harnessing the political flexibility and willingness of governments to innovate, which the crisis alone made possible, in order to get approval for the development of international peacekeeping machinery. The crisis was thus used to establish a precedent which has been built on since then, in succeeding crises, to strengthen and develop the United Nations, and to limit the risk of these various problem situations spreading out of control.

The United Nations peacekeeping activities in the Congo, the Yemen, and Cyprus are cases in point. In all of these Canadian forces have played a major part. Last autumn we played host to a conference of countries with UN peacekeeping experience, designed to help improve methods and readiness for such operations in the future.

Canada has also been active in international peacekeeping activities in Indochina. The success of these Indochina Commissions is limited. Quite a lot was accomplished in the early period: prisoners were exchanged, refugees, resettled, a Cambodian election supervised and authenticated. Without the international machinery, the situation would clearly have been far worse: for one thing French withdrawal in 1954