

# THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

In recent months there has been much comment and speculation on the possibility that the Military Staff Committee (MSC) might have an enhanced role to play in view of the new positive atmosphere of cooperation in the United Nations in general and in the Security Council in particular.

For reference, here are the applicable articles of the UN Charter dealing with the MSC:

'Chapter VII - ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THREATS TO THE PEACE, BREACHES OF THE PEACE, AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION; Article 43 -

1. All Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

2. Such agreement or agreements shall govern the numbers and types of forces, their degree of readiness and general location, and the nature of the facilities and assistance to be provided.

3. The agreement or agreements shall be negotiated as soon as possible on the initiative of the Security Council. They shall be concluded between the Security Council and Members or between the Security Council and groups of Members and shall be subject to ratification by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

## Article 45 -

In order to enable the United Nations to take urgent military measures, Members shall hold immediately available national air-force contingents for combined international enforcement action. The section and degree of readiness of these contingents and plans for their combined action shall be determined, within the limits laid down in the special agreement or agreements referred to in Article 43, by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee

## Article 46 -

Plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

## Article 47 -

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.

2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations

not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.

3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.

4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional sub-committees.

## MILITARY ADVISORS ON PEACEKEEPING ON STAFF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Some countries have military advisors on the staff of their Permanent Missions to the United Nations and working within the UN Secretariat itself. We would like to hear from the countries concerned about the usefulness of these personnel, their duties and responsibilities, when the country began the arrangement and how long it is likely to continue.

It is also known that there are military peacekeeping advisors attached to other international organizations such as the OAU, the OAS, etc. Our readers would be interested in details of those as well.

Please drop us a line and brief us on your country's activities.

## SOME REFLECTIONS ON:

# UNEF I

Editor's note:

**Each Issue of International Perspectives: Peacekeeping and International Relations will carry some personal thoughts on a particular peacekeeping mission. Please send us yours.**

## UNEF I - A Military Memory, by Colonel John Gardam

It was mid-winter 1960 when the Reconnaissance Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse (a Canadian armoured regiment) left Camp Petawawa, Ontario, for Egypt. What made this particular squadron unique is that it was formed from three armoured regiments: Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) and Fort Garry Horse, each regiment supplying one reconnaissance troop. The squadron never trained together and at no time did all personnel gather together, not even for a photograph. The three reconnaissance troops lived in the two International Camps and rotated with the Base Camp Troop every week. The regular routine was two

weeks on patrol and one week at rest and maintenance. The one hundred and seven all ranks were made up of Second World War, and Korean Conflict Veterans plus a large percentage of brand new soldiers, the latter 18 and 19 years old.

It was the transition of the young men to hardened reconnaissance soldiers that was the biggest surprise and pleasure for me. They were full of enthusiasm and good health and quickly surfaced as dependable skillful young men. Life for them was exciting and they entered into all the dangers and challenges with that zest reserved for youth. They worked with loaded weapons, a communication system monitored by Israeli and United Arab Republic soldiers, and a dangerous desert terrain well laced with anti-tank and personnel mines; and they dealt efficiently and effectively with all problems.

The Fort Garry Squadron was fortunate, there were no fatalities, all came home. The Squadron held no final parade. The troops came in from the desert,

packed and flew home in Royal Canadian Air Force North Stars. They were posted to all corners of Canada, never to serve together again as a unit.

It was extremely gratifying for me to see how well they adapted to the peacekeeping role with very little supervision. They revelled in the sights and sounds of a strange country and they matured far quicker than they would have done at home. They were a gallant group of friends who did well when they were called upon and they were never found wanting. Four of the Troopers went on to become Regimental Sergeants-Major of their regiments.

**Colonel John Gardam was the Battle Captain and second-in-command of the FGH Recce Squadron. He retired from the Regular Force in 1984 and is now the Director of the Department of National Defence Project overseeing the erection in Ottawa of a monument to Canada's participation in peacekeeping. Colonel Gardam is also the author of three books and many articles.**

## Birthpangs of UNEF I - A Political Flashback by Geoffrey Murray

Rarely has an autumn passed since 1956 that I have not recalled the Suez crisis. Events at UN Headquarters provided the political backdrop for the birth of the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I), a Canadian idea which evolved, in closest cooperation with many other UN member states and the UN Secretariat, into a reality on the ground, in the teeth of sharp international tension and across a tortuous political terrain. UNEF I constituted a new kind of UN presence for peacekeeping that became a model for future use, in subsequent situations of strategic significance in the emerging third world. We Canadians serving External Affairs, in Ottawa, New York and other posts abroad, were broadly united in our assessment of what had to be done in the UN General Assembly and in the Middle East to dampen down the leaping flames of brushfire war, to restore calm generally in the region, to reunite nations sharply split by the crisis - in NATO, in the Commonwealth and in the UN itself. We were particularly concerned about the rift in relationships among our allies of longstand-

ing - Britain, France and the United States.

Our situation in New York was challenging but not hopeless. Many UN members shared Canada's concern that the Assembly had to work constructively for means to complement and underwrite its firm call upon the warring parties to effect a ceasefire and withdrawal. In those years, Canadian foreign policy was clear: cooperation with like-minded states to ensure that collective security worked effectively in pursuit of peaceful solutions. We were led by an experienced Secretary of State for External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson, who was one of the architects of that policy and an inspired improviser in seeing that it was implemented. Throughout the Suez affair, a solid core of Assembly members looked for leadership and initiatives, around which they could rally. They found both at the Canada desk: in Pearson and the UNEF idea he launched in the wee hours of November 1-2, 1956.

It took long hours and weeks and eventually months of intense political and military collaboration to get the UNEF fully effective but it began to happen much more quickly than anybody

involved could have imagined. It required imaginative planning, military ingenuity and diplomatic skill, on the part of a closely-knit team of UN players. Most of the big names of that era - Dag Hammarskjöld above all - had significant involvement. There was also a host of nameless, faceless ones who beavered ceaselessly off-stage. We had the satisfaction of knowing that the UN had not only survived a long ordeal but emerged stronger than ever, both as an effective organization for international action and in the esteem of anxious peoples everywhere. Peacekeeping had taken new shape and meaning, for the military professionals making it work in the Middle East and for their civilian and military counterparts, at UN Headquarters and in national capitals. Canadians generally shared that satisfaction.

**Geoffrey Murray recently retired from a long and distinguished career in the Canadian Foreign Service. From 1955-58, he was Senior Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and was Mr. Pearson's New York advisor on the Suez affair.**