

PEACEKEEPING

Canada has participated in every peacekeeping mission in the Middle East since 1954, when Canadian observers first joined the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). The then Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson was the key figure in the creation of the first UN peacekeeping force, the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) in Egypt in 1956, to separate the belligerents at the end of the Suez war. A Canadian, Lieutenant-Colonel E.L.M. Burns, was the first Commander of UNEF. Canada maintained a contingent of approximately 1000 troops in UNEF I from 1956 until the force was withdrawn in May 1967, at Egyptian insistence, just prior to the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

After the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, a second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II) was established in the Sinai peninsula. Canada provided a contingent of approximately 1000 troops to UNEF II until withdrawal in 1979.

Canada also contributed approximately 100 logistics and communications troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), for a period of six months in 1978, to assist in the establishment of that force.

Currently, Canada participates in four peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East, three of which are under UN auspices:

(a) United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

UNTSO was established in 1948, to supervise cease-fire and Armistice agreements between Israel and surrounding Arab states. UNTSO Headquarters is in Jerusalem, and UNTSO Observers are located throughout the Middle East. Canada provides 20 officer observers to UNTSO, employed in Israel, Damascus and the Golan Heights, Lebanon (including Beirut) and Cairo.

(b) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

UNDOF was established in 1974 to supervise the areas of separation and limitations between Syrian and Israeli forces on the Golan Heights, and Canada has participated from the outset. UNDOF headquarters is located in Damascus. The Canadian contingent of approximately 220 personnel, based at Camp Ziouani in Israeli-occupied territory, provides logistics and communication support, a role shared with Poland.

(c) United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Canada has contributed forces to UNFICYP since its inception in 1964. Currently, Canada provides a