

11 Canadian Forces personnel, helps supervise the general armistice agreements concluded separately between Israel and Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Some 30 Canadian Forces personnel serve with Multinational Force and Observers. This is an independent peacekeeping mission aiming to prevent violations of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and to verify adherence to treaty provisions in accordance with the Camp David Accords.

Trade and Investment

- Canada and Israel have a growing trade relationship, with two-way trade exceeding \$726 million in 1999, an increase of 40 per cent since the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed. Since the agreement came into effect in 1997, tariffs on almost all products manufactured in Canada and Israel have been removed. Discussions continue on removing or reducing remaining tariffs.
- The trade agreement is generating business opportunities for Canadian goods in this dynamic market. In the past three years, exports have risen more than 19 per cent, and Canadian firms are making a major impact in the transportation and telecommunications sectors.
- Canadian commodity exports to Israel exceeded \$283 million in 1999. Exports included aluminum, vehicles, machinery, paper, wood and wood pulp.
- In 1999, Canadian imports from Israel totalled \$443 million, more than doubling since 1994. Imports included industrial diamonds, machinery, and electrical equipment.
- With Israel liberalizing its agriculture and agri-food sectors, Canadian exporters and producers are especially interested in developing markets for fish, fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, and prepared frozen foods.
- The Export Development Corporation offers three lines of credit, each worth \$10 million US for buyer credit financing in Israel. Canadian exporters wishing to sell goods or services in Israel can benefit from the corporation's financial and risk management services.
- Canadian investment in Israel, estimated at over \$300 million, is focused primarily in the high-tech sector. Nortel Networks and Newbridge are currently active in Israel.