

# Canada Weekly

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Canada's peacekeepers: guardians in the world's trouble spots, 1

Canada urges global action to combat environmental hazards, 3

SSEA reaffirms NATO support, 3

Canada-United States sign phosphate agreement, 3

Multi-person rescue net plucks people from depths and heights, 4

Bush plane breathes again, 4

Auto supermarket: browse and buy, 4

Olympics contract for Toronto firm, 5

Glass coating could be heat saver, 5

High-technology cardiac centre opened in Ottawa, 5

Lubrication device wins friends — and customers, 6

Stamp marks Nova Scotia Law School anniversary, 6

School suits most needs, 6

News of the arts — film, papers, resignation, 7

Spectacular Saddledome set for Calgary Olympics, 8

News briefs, 8

## Canada's peacekeepers: guardians in the world's trouble spots



Canadian Forces

It was in 1956, at the height of the Suez crisis, that Canada's External Affairs Minister Lester Pearson stood before the United Nations and introduced a resolution calling for the creation of a United Nations Emergency Force. The resolution was adopted and a 1 000-member force designed "to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities" was despatched to Egypt. Mr. Pearson was subsequently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions.

Since that first group sprung into action, Canadian peacekeepers have answered the call that has taken them to a dozen countries to mediate in as many disputes. They have participated in five more UN missions to the Middle East. They have also served in Cyprus, India and Pakistan, the Congo, West New Guinea, Yemen and on the Golan Heights. The most recent Canadian contingent went to Lebanon in 1978 to provide communications support to the UN force there.

Today, 755 Canadians are taking

part in the UN-sponsored peacekeeping operations in the Middle East and Cyprus. One man, Lieutenant-Colonel John Bishop, also represents Canada on the demarcation line between North and South Korea.

### The UN in Cyprus

It is in Cyprus that the Canadian UN force has been making one of its most significant contributions to current UN peacekeeping operations. The mandate of the UN mission in Cyprus is to prevent, as best it can, a recurrence of fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. The Canadian responsibility includes the largest city on the island, Nicosia, where belligerents are separated by solitary UN observation posts.

Canada was also involved in the establishment of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon after the invasion of the southern part of that country by Israel



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