

"There were shots being fired, both by the Greek and Turkish Cypriots."

"I think it was boring; the private soldier's reaction peacekeeping was that it was just straight boring. There were very stringent regulations on when and where you could use firearms."

CYPRUS, 1964.

chosen for service in Sinai had, by unfortunate chance, the disconcerting name of the Queen's Own Rifles. A compromise was reached; the Queen's Own Rifles stayed home and Canada sent service and transport troops, aircraft and pilots, and an armoured reconnaissance squadron, but no infantrymen.

UNEF was a success, perhaps the most clear-cut success the UN and Canada, as its primary policeman, were ever to enjoy. It can be seen in retrospect that the Suez crisis had built-in ingredients for success: The superpowers were on the same side of the issue and the British and French had no desire to pursue what was quickly seen to be a hopeless course of action. More difficult conflicts lay ahead, but for the first few years the peacekeeping scenarios read like up-beat

stories in a magazine for boys. When crisis came briefly to Lebanon in 1958, a contingent of seventy-seven Canadians served with UNOGIL, the United Nations Observer Group, and when the Congo was caught up in the violent confusion of its new independence in 1960, Canadian signallers and aircraft pilots went in for a long stay; this time there was chaos rather than clear-cut conflict. In time a semblance of peace was gained and the Canadians went home with a sense of reasonable accomplishment. Peacekeeping had become a key element in Canadian policy. In 1962 a small contingent of Canadians went to West New Guinea (West Irian) and in 1963 another group went to the Yemen. In 1964 Canadian troops played an essential role in Cyprus and stalemated a threatening war between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot populations. The Canadians are still there.

By 1964 it was becoming apparent that not all ventures were to be successful and those that lingered on were likely to grow worse instead of better. Canada had accepted a peacekeeping role outside the UN in 1954 when it became part of the International Control Commission in Indochina. The job of the ICC—Canadians, Poles and Indians—was to see that the peace agreement which ended the war between France and its former colony in Vietnam was properly carried out.

Peacekeeping Box Score



THE JOB of peacekeeping varies. In some situations the peacekeeper functions as an "observer" only; in others, where peace has been

declared and both sides have agreed, at least in public, to observe certain limitations on their conduct, he is more literally a peacekeeper and more likely to apply direct pressure on the behavior of the erstwhile combatants. In Korea he was, uniquely, a combatant himself. Canada has responded to every request to participate in the United Nations' peacekeeping missions and in the missions in Vietnam as well. Below, with the appropriate initials, are the UN missions in which Canadians have served.

UNCOK (1947-48), UNCK (1950-57), UNCMAC (1957 to date): Korea. At the peak, in the early fifties, there were approximately 8000 Canadians there. Today there is one liaison officer and a non-commissioned clerk.

UNMOGIP (1949 to date): India-Pakistan. At the peak, in 1965, there were 27 Canadians involved.

UNTSO (1954 to date): Truce supervisory organization in Palestine. At present there are 20 Canadians there.

UNEF (1956-67): Egypt. At peak there were 1172 air communications, administration and reconnaissance troops.

UNOGIL (1958-59): Lebanon; peak, 77.

ONUC (1960-64): Congo; peak, 316.

UNTEA (1962-63): West New Guinea (West Irian); 15 Canadians at peak.

UNYOM (1963-65): Yemen observer mission; peak, 36.

UNFICYP (1964 to date): Cyprus; peak 1126.

UNIPOM (1965-66): India-Pakistan; peak, 112.

UNEF II/UNDOF (1973 to date): The Middle East; peak (and present level), 1100.