

Peacekeeping is just one of a range of tools the international community uses to deal with conflict. Others include:

- *preventive diplomacy*, which is action to prevent disputes from arising, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur. This may involve negotiated settlements or confidence-building and arms control measures. It may also involve *preventive deployment*, that is, the sending of forces to act as a deterrent to aggression. An example is the deployment of UN forces in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- *peace enforcement*, which entails the international community using force against a belligerent state in an attempt to restore the peaceful status quo ante. This was the case in the Korean War (1950-53) and the Gulf War (1990-91), where the United Nations authorized military intervention by an international coalition to deal with the aggression of one state against another. Canada contributed broadly to both operations.
- *peacemaking*, which refers essentially to diplomatic activities pursued to resolve a conflict. Examples include mediation, conciliation and adjudication.

## CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO PEACEKEEPING

On Confederation Boulevard in Ottawa stands *Reconciliation*, Canada's national peacekeeping monument. Unveiled in October 1992, the monument consists of two converging walls, crumbled and overgrown with weeds, representing belligerent factions. At the convergence of the walls stand three peacekeepers, symbolizing the reconciliation of those in conflict. It is a reminder to Canadians and visitors alike that Canada takes great pride in its peacekeeping record.

With tens of thousands of Canadians having served in more than 30 separate missions, UN peace and security operations form the majority of Canada's international military commitments. While peacekeepers come from all branches of the Canadian Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force), the Army has provided the vast majority, being more suited to the tasks involved. In addition, thousands of men and women from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Elections Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and other governmental and non-governmental agencies based in Canada have served in peacekeeping missions. Over 100 Canadian military personnel have been killed, and hundreds of others wounded, in the service of peace.

Canada is one of the select group of countries to which the UN regularly turns when it requires valued peacekeeping advice and when it wants expert military contributions. Our forces are professional,

well trained and highly motivated, with a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience upon which to draw when faced with unexpected crises. Canadian soldiers have proven time and time again their ability to remain calm under the most difficult circumstances. The Canadian Forces maintains units and individuals on stand-by for deployment around the globe at the request of the UN.

## WHY AND WHEN DOES CANADA GET INVOLVED?

Successive Canadian governments have attempted to ensure that international peace and security are pursued through multilateral co-operation, rather than through unilateral action. They have consistently regarded peacekeeping as one of the most important mechanisms for dealing with crises. The Canadian approach to peacekeeping is based on the view that successful conflict management requires a range of tools that seek to prevent conflicts from beginning and to resolve peacefully conflicts already under way.

The decision to establish a United Nations peacekeeping force is usually taken, in the first instance, by the UN Security Council. Since the United Nations has no armed forces of its own, the Secretary-General must ask individual member states to provide specific forces for each operation.