

the world's population, 90 percent of economic output and 75 percent of trade.

Mr. Malone describes the L20 as building on the success of the G8 by creating a separate forum to pull in key

### **Did you know?**

**Canada has served on the UN Security Council six times, the last in 1999-2000.**

developing countries to address joint global challenges in fields such as health, terrorism and migration, rather than competing with the UN. But the point is controversial. Kate White of UNAC, for example, worries that the group could amount

to "the A-team saying 'the good kids can go with us.' I'm very cautious," she admits.

Still, this is a time for creativity in the world system, much as it was 60 years ago.

"Multilateralism is not a naïve pipedream," says Canadian Jennifer Welsh, the Oxford University academic whose book, *At Home in the World*, examined Canada's foreign policy future. "Anyone who suggests so should consult the historiography of the creation of the United Nations. With six years of carnage behind them, the crafters of that organization were motivated not by how they wished the world would be, but by how they knew it was."

Indeed, despite their frustration over the process of creating the UN Charter, Canadians took away from San Francisco in 1945 a deep belief that the organization would improve the lot of humankind. When the document was finally signed, Escott Reid wrote that if the UN is to succeed, "we must be willing to experiment, and to run great risks to attain great objectives."

"Above all, we must remember that all men are brothers," he wrote, "And that upon the dignity, the liberty and the inviolability of the individual men, women and children of the world depend the welfare of the people, the safety of the state and the peace of the world." 🍁

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## **Out of the ashes of war**



As delegates met to draft the United Nations Charter, Canadian soldiers, sailors and air crew were still involved with Allied forces in the closing operations of the Second World War.

For Lester B. Pearson, who was not only a veteran of the First World War but had also been in London during the Nazi blitz of the conflict just ending, the UN represented "the greatest hope for a lasting peace" in the world.

"He was very conscious of what the end of the war really meant," reflects Andrew Caddell, Senior Policy Advisor on UN Affairs at Foreign Affairs Canada.

Many Canadian veterans returning from the battlegrounds of Europe and the Pacific theatre not only supported the goals of the newly formed international body, but some would again risk their lives just five years later when the UN took a stand against North Korean aggression.

"They'd been shaped by what they'd experienced," says Caddell, whose father Philip Caddell served in Britain and fought in the Italian Campaign in the Second World War. "Every person we knew who served abroad was absolutely dedicated to making a better world. And to many of those veterans, the UN represented that spirit."

Retired Colonel Paul Mayer, a distinguished Canadian veteran of the Second World War who went on to serve as a UN peacekeeping commander in a number of conflicts, including rescuing missionaries in the Congo rebellion and serving as a special observer following the revolution in the Dominican Republic, says that veterans were very much suited to the UN forces.

"We were used, and we were used well," remarks Col. Mayer, who lives in Ottawa. "It was combat, and we lost people."

Retired Colonel John Gardam of Ottawa, the author of a book entitled *Korea Volunteer*, says that when large numbers of soldiers were needed for the first major UN challenge in Korea, it was the infusion of Canada's Second World War veterans "that provided the stiffening of all the units" in the conflict.

Starting with Mr. Pearson himself, says retired Colonel Donald Ethell of Calgary, Canada's veterans brought to the creation of the UN a perspective that few of their countrymen had: the experience of seeing the devastation of conflict first-hand.

"Anyone who has seen the results of war," comments Col. Ethell, who is past president of the Canadian Association for Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping, "would be very supportive of an international organization like the UN."

Suited to UN forces: Col. Paul Mayer (left), a Second World War veteran who went on to serve as a peacekeeper, worked with fellow Canadian veteran Sgt. Leo Lessard to rescue missionaries in the Congo in 1964.

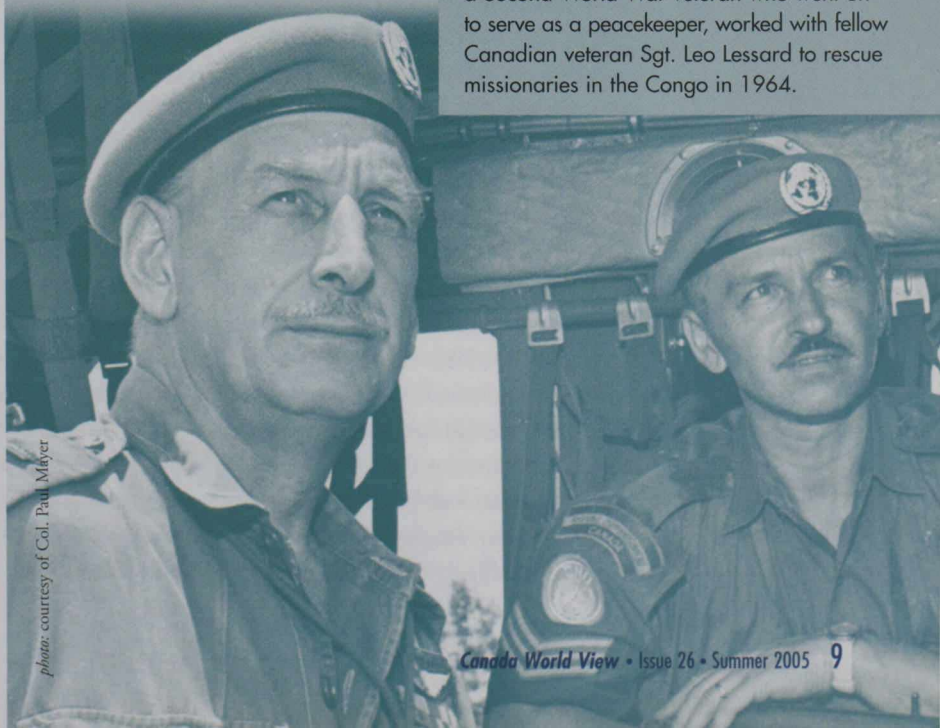


photo: courtesy of Col. Paul Mayer