
PEACEKEEPING

Canada is proud of its record in preserving world peace and fostering global security. Since 1956, when Lester Pearson, then Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, proposed the idea of a UN peacekeeping force to help resolve the Suez crisis, Canada has participated in virtually every UN peacekeeping operation.

In the last two or three years, however, the number, cost and risk of peacekeeping operations under the United Nations have increased dramatically. Canada has increased its contribution accordingly.

The resources of the UN and participating states have become dangerously stretched in the last three years as the requirement for peacekeepers grew sixfold. Cambodia will cost the UN \$2 billion and the current operations in the former Yugoslavia will require \$1 billion. Implementing a UN-brokered peace plan in the former Yugoslavia will entail significantly higher costs. Over the next two or three years, the financial needs of the UN to cover the costs associated with current and predictable peacekeeping operations might grow by well over \$3 billion.

The strain put on UN resources and management capabilities has started to show. Canada believes that the UN still provides the most effective means of achieving global peace and security. That is why Canada has endorsed the thrust of the secretary general's report, *Agenda for Peace*.

The proposals in the secretary general's report capture the complex reality of the post-Cold War era and put forward a broad spectrum of instruments — peacekeeping, peacemaking, enforcement, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding — and resources to prevent, manage and

solve conflicts. Providing the financial and human resources to support the proposals in a zero-growth budget environment would require a collective effort and a willingness to share the burden equitably. In this endeavour, the secretary general will need the full support of the main contributors, particularly the G-7 countries, who collectively provide 65 per cent of the assessed contributions to the UN.

In addition to its participation in current peacekeeping missions, Canada has already taken steps to address the secretary general's concerns. We have provided an expert to assist the Secretariat in developing a stand-by program and we are discussing with the UN a proposal for providing stand-by forces, which would be available for duty on very short notice after a decision by the UN Security Council. Canada is also sponsoring a program to develop the UN's capacity to provide logistical support for peacekeeping operations.

Canada believes that other measures are needed to address urgent needs both at UN headquarters and in the field to ensure professional operation: establishment of a clear command structure, standard procedures to avoid waste of time and resources in each new mission, a greater degree of inter-operability among national forces, and the possible creation of a UN staff college.

One of Canada's aims is to ensure that the UN can be relatively certain of the forces and resources at its disposal at any time, to improve planning and provide for quick preventive actions. In the same vein, Canada believes that early-warning and crisis-prevention measures