

to volunteer money."¹⁷ Further, it was reported in early June 1989 that Canada had let it be known formally in the Security Council that it wanted "a countdown on the endless summer of Canadian peacekeeping forces on Cyprus." A spokesman for Canadian Ambassador to the UN Yves Fortier stated that "there's no question that continued participation is needed, but we must make the council aware that we're concerned about the cost, and the length of time it's gone on without settlement."¹⁸ The end result was a Security Council statement urging serious attempts at a political solution, without referring to the financing of the peacekeeping forces.¹⁹

On 22 December 1988, External Affairs Minister Clark committed Canada to assist in the implementation of the UN plan for Namibian independence. Canada pledged approximately 225 Canadian Forces soldiers toward the 4650-strong UN operation.²⁰ An advance party departed from Canada in mid-March 1989, with the balance to have been in place by mid-April 1989. However, after over 1000 South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrillas crossed the Angola-Namibia border on the cease-fire date of 1 April 1989, the Canadian Government agreed to a UN request to hasten its troop deployment and provide additional air support to the entire UNTAG force.²¹ External Affairs Minister Clark criticized the UN for its lengthy debate over the costs and size of UNTAG's force, cut from a proposed 7500, and confirmed that only some 200 of 1000 UN personnel were in place at the Angola-Namibia border when the SWAPO incursion occurred.²² With on-going negotiations to place the Namibian peace process back "on track" in May and June 1989, the 257 Canadians committed to UNTAG are scheduled to return to Canada on 1 April 1990.²³

At present there are two other areas in which a Canadian contribution to UN peacekeeping forces may be called for in the immediate future: Central America and Cambodia. In addition, a UN peace plan for the resolution of the conflict in the Western Sahara may involve Canadian participation in peacekeeping activities in the near future although there is, thus far, no stated Canadian position on this issue.

In February 1989, a letter to the UN Secretary-General from Foreign Ministry officials of the five signatories of the Regional Peace Accord in Central America requested a team of unarmed military observers from Canada, Spain, West Germany and

17 "Canada Joins in Complaint About UN Peacekeeping Tab." *Ottawa Citizen*, 25 May 1989, p. A13.

18 Olivia Ward, "Canada Pressures U.N. for Push on Cyprus Peace." *Toronto Star*, 11 June 1989, p. H2.

19 *Ibid.*; and "Peacekeepers Seek Additional U.N. Funding for Cyprus." *Toronto Star*, 25 May 1989, p. 12.

20 Department of External Affairs, *News Release* No. 255 (22 December 1988).

21 "Petawawa Troops Rush to Namibia." *Ottawa Citizen*, 12 April 1989 p. A6.

22 Gregory Wirick, "Report From the Hill: Peacekeeping Activity." *Peace & Security*, vol. 4 no. 2 (Summer 1989), p. 18.

23 John Best, "Rising Profile for Peacekeeping." *Ottawa Citizen*, 23 June 1989, p. E3.