

Attitudes of Selected Publics:

The general public has tended to support U.N. efforts in the area of peacekeeping, and for the most part has approved of Canadian participation in the various operations. The general public attitudes, however, seem to vary considerably by the seriousness of the crisis. For example in May, 1956 before the Suez War only 45.0% of a national sample thought the U.N. should ask member countries to supply troops for a police force and 30.2% disapproved. Furthermore, only 36.0% approved of Canada contributing. When the decision was made to commit a force to Suez in November, 1956, however, 79.0% of a national sample approved of the U.N. decision, and it seems reasonable to assume a majority agreed with Canadian participation.²² When the Cyprus dispute occurred in early 1964 the majority of the public (54.6%) agreed to contribute troops to the U.N. force and only 31.6% disapproved of such action.²³ A survey conducted by McDonald Research Limited published in March, 1964 found that 62.2% of the public approved of sending troops to Cyprus while 32.9% disapproved.²⁴

There has also been majority support from the general public on the question of a permanent international police force. The Canadian Peace Research Institute survey in November, 1962 found that 78.0% of a national sample favoured a strong, permanent U.N. army (table No. 18), and the McDonald Research Survey in March, 1964 found that 69.9% of their public favoured permanent Canadian military support for an international U.N. force while only 23.7% were opposed. Unfortunately no continuing question has been asked by the CIPO on either a permanent U.N. force or peacekeeping attitudes in general. Table No. 18, however, indicated that in late 1962 all segments of the public surveyed favoured a strong U.N. force.

Table No. 18: Support for a Permanent U.N. Army (1962).²⁵ (Expressed in percentages).

Groups code -	<u>N</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>P</u>
Strong, permanent U.N. army would be a danger to our national freedom	11	11	23	4	17
Strong, permanent U.N. army would protect, rather than endanger, our national freedom	78	84	58	88	83
Don't know	11	55	19	8	0
Totals	100	100	100	100	100

Notes: Group code - N - national sample, C - contributors to the Canadian Peace Research Institute, B - businessmen, L - trade union leaders, and P - politicians.

Source: Canadian Peace Research Survey, November, 1962. Question No. 10.