

Peacekeeping: A Canadian Contribution to Global Security

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A central feature of Canada's foreign and defence policy since the Second World War has been the commitment to promote international peace and security. The effective participation of Canadians in peacekeeping operations has contributed directly to the easing of tensions in trouble spots throughout the world. Over 4,500 Canadian Forces and RCMP personnel are currently deployed on international peacekeeping operations and in Somalia, making Canada one of the leading nations in this field.

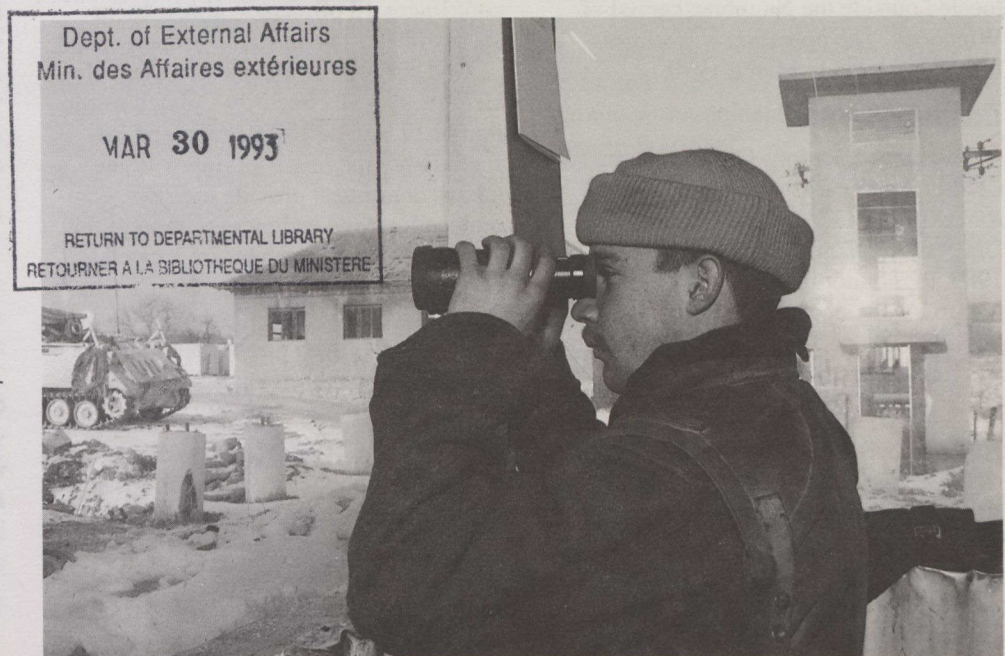
Purpose of Peacekeeping

Canada recognizes that international peacekeeping has many limitations and should not be viewed as an end in itself. The purpose of peacekeeping is not only to halt conflict, but also to create conditions in which the search for peaceful solutions to the underlying causes of tensions can take place through negotiations. Canada will continue to place considerable emphasis on the interrelationship between peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts in the difficult process of international conflict resolution.

Canada's Involvement

The Canadian Forces have always been in the forefront of United Nations efforts to keep the peace. In fact, Canada is the only country to have participated in all of the UN peacekeeping operations since 1947. We have sent troops to such far away places as Kashmir (1949-79), West New Guinea (1962-63) and Yemen (1963-64). Canadian military personnel have been associated with such politically delicate operations as clearing mercenaries from Katanga and securing the territorial integrity of the former Belgian Congo (1960-64), now Zaire. They have stood between Egyptians and Israelis in the Sinai (1956-67, 1973-79) and assisted Namibia's transition to independence (1989-90).

Canada has also participated in peacekeeping missions not under the auspices of the United Nations. These include the International Observer Team to Nigeria (OTN, 1968-69); two truce supervisory operations in Indochina — the Interna-



Corporal Bob Berlasty checks movement of vehicles in Dragovic, Croatia. Cpl. Berlasty is attached to the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, which arrived in October 1992 for a six-month tour of duty with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia.
Canadian Forces photo by Sergeant Margaret Reid

tional Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC, 1954-74) and the International Commission for Control and Supervision (ICCS, 1973); one truce supervision in the Sinai, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO, since 1986); and the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM, since 1991) in the former Yugoslav republics.

Quite distinct from peacekeeping operations was the Korean conflict (1950-53), in which the Canadian Forces fought under the aegis of the United Nations in defence of a victim of aggression. Although the Korean operation did not fall within the current definition of a peacekeeping operation, it nonetheless represented a major action by the United Nations to restore peace. Some 27,000 members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force served in the Korean theatre of war over a span of three years, the maximum forces committed at one time being more than 9,000. These forces suffered more than 1,600 casualties, including 516 deaths.

Overall, between 1947 and 1992, tens of thousands of Canadians have participated in peace-restoring, peacekeeping and truce supervisory operations mounted by the United Nations, and in truce super-

visory or observer missions conducted outside the UN framework. Since Korea, 83 Canadians have died while serving in peacekeeping forces.

Recent Commitments

Canada has recently been involved in the following UN-sponsored activities.

Iran-Iraq

The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was established in 1988 to monitor the ceasefire at the end of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Canada provided 15 officers as observers or staff officers for the duration of this mission. During the early months, Canada contributed a communications squadron of 525 troops responsible for setting up the Observer Group's communications requirements along the 1,200 kilometre border between the two countries. On February 28, 1991, the UN Security Council allowed the UNIIMOG mandate to lapse.

Namibia

The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) was created in March 1989 by the UN Security Council as a military/civilian operation to supervise Namibia's transition to independence.