

Peacekeeping : Participating for peace

Defined generally as the employment of military, para-military or non-military personnel or forces in an area of political conflict for the purpose of restoring or maintaining the peace, peacekeeping provides the opportunity for combatants to disengage and develop the confidence to settle differences by negotiation. Peacekeeping activities range from unarmed missions with a role of observation and reporting only, or roles of investigation, supervision and control, to the interposition of armed military units and formations between parties.

Canada has been and continues to be a strong supporter of peacekeeping and a major contributor to peacekeeping operations. Since 1947, it has participated in a total of 15 UN peacekeeping operations as well as a few peacekeeping-type missions outside the auspices of the United Nations.

Currently, Canada contributes forces to three UN peacekeeping operations and commencing in 1986, has agreed to participate in another peacekeeping mission in the Middle East, not under UN auspices. These operations are:

- **The United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO):** It was established in 1948 to supervise ceasefire and armistice agreements between Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and

Israel. Canada has participated in UNTSO since 1954 and currently has 20 officers assisting in the operation.

- **The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF):** It was created in May 1974 to observe and maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria. Canada provides some 220 personnel to give logistic, communications and other technical support.

The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP): This force was established in 1964 to prevent a recurrence of fighting between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and to assist in the return of normal conditions. Canada is a major contributor and currently has 515 personnel involved in the operation.

- **The Multinational Force and Observers (MFO):** Based in the Sinai peninsula, it was established in 1981 to monitor the provisions of the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. In response to requests from Egypt and Israel, Canada agreed to provide a contingent of up to 140 personnel and nine helicopters to the MFO, commencing on March 31, 1986.

In addition to the above operations, Canada provides periodic airlift support to the UN Military Observer Group India-Pakistan (UNMOGIP), and the Canadian Forces attaché in the Republic of Korea provides Canadian representation on the UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) ■

Nobel laureate in chemistry

John Polanyi, a University of Toronto professor, won the 1986 Nobel Prize in chemistry for research into molecular changes that take place during the split-second of a chemical reaction. He shares the \$406 000 (Cdn) award with two US scientists.

The winners were cited by the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm for their work in reaction dynamics, a new field of research that "has provided a much more detailed understanding of how chemical reactions take place". Their findings could be used to fight air pollution, acid rain and erosion of the ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere.

Dr. Polanyi's research was instrumental in the development of the laser at the University of California at Berkeley. The laser, which was first proposed for the US Strategic Defence Initiative, is also used in medicine, including surgery to staple detached retinas.

Like Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor in whose name the prizes have been awarded annually since 1901, Dr. Polanyi's sentiments lie in peace and disarmament but his research can be used for military purposes. In an interview Dr. Polanyi said that scientists who understood new technology had an obligation to be vigilant about its applications.

For his research, Dr. Polanyi has received many honours. In 1971 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London and, three years later, was made an officer of the Order of Canada. He was raised to companion of that order in 1979.

Dr. Polanyi is the fourth Canadian to win a Nobel award. The others are: Gerhard Herzberg, for natural sciences; former Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who won the Nobel Peace Prize; and Sir Frederick Banting, who was honoured for his work in developing insulin ■