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CANADA AND INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING by W.H. Baxter

There is one field of international relations in which Canada plays a leading role — indeed, it would be no exageration to say, is the leader —; it is peacekeeping. The *active peacekeeping* under the aegis of the United Nations, that is, the one where a multinational armed force is used to keep warring, or expected to become warring, neighbouring states apart, is in fact a Canadian invention. The scheme was devised on the spur of the moment, at the height of the 1956 Suez Crisis, by then Canadian Secretary of State for external Affairs Lester Pearson and then Secretary-General of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold. They there and then put together the first active United Nations peacekeeping force, UNEF. It contained a significant Canadian contingent and was commanded by a Canadian, Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns. For his initiative Lester Pearson received the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize. As for the United Nations peacekeeping forces which since then performed their arduous duties in a number of operations in various parts of the world, they were awarded in the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, a well-deserved recognition. Over 80,000 Canadian military personnel share this honour.

The aim of peacekeeping is not only to prevent slaughter and make possible a return to normal life in the area in which a peacekeeping force operates, but also to keep a conflict from spreading by drawing in other countries than those immediately concerned; in our world, localizing a conflict is second best to stopping it altogether.

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► FROM THE EDITOR

Alex Morrison

The renaissance of peacekeeping in recent years has highlighted the usefullness to international peace, security and stability of this conflict resolution technique, in the establishment of which Canada is generally recognized as having played a welcome and appreciated role.

Due to its success as a confidence building measure, the principles of peacekeeping are now being embraced by many countries which find themselves in different situation. Over 100 countries have participated in peacekeeping missions. The tasks assigned to peacekeepers will increase in the future and will consist, not only of those of a traditional military nature, but of those heretofore regardless as being of a diplomatic or political character.

We feel that **International Perspectives: Peacekeeping and International Relations** will fill an important educational need. We hope that you will contribute your experiences, your thoughts and your opinions. We also hope you will subscribe.

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