



■ Canada has been prominent in its support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
(UN Photo)

a medical clinic in the Gaza Strip, supported the establishment of kindergarten classrooms at Balata Refugee Camp, provided vacuum packing equipment for three women's food-processing cooperatives, and enabled the Central Blood Bank in the Gaza Strip to purchase AIDS testing equipment. Canadian aid in the occupied territories will total \$1.35 million in the 1988-89 fiscal year.

A Special Contribution

Provision of peacekeeping forces has come to be recognized as a somewhat unique Canadian specialty in the post-war era, and the Middle East has been one of the most frequent destinations for Canadian personnel.

In 1956, Canada's then Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson initiated the United Nations resolution that established the first UN Emergency Force (UNEF I). Its historic mandate was to "secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities" following the Suez crisis. UNEF's first chief of staff, Canadian Major

General E.L.M. Burns, had headed the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) between 1954 and 1956. Canada's peak contribution to UNEF I totalled 1 172 personnel.

Between 1973 and 1979, Canada provided 1 145 troops to the logistics component of UNEF II, stationed between Israeli and Egyptian forces in the Sinai peninsula.

At present, Canada provides 22 officers to UNTSO which was established in 1948 by the Security Council to oversee the armistice between Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel. A group of 225 Canadians, specializing primarily in logistics and communications, is involved with the UN Disarmament Observer Force (UNDOF), which has supervised the ceasefire and arms limitation agreement between Israel and Syria since 1974.

Since 1985, 140 Canadians have participated in the Multinational Force of Observers (MFO), the peacekeeping force established to monitor implementation of the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Canada Encouraged by Cease-fire

During the tragic Iran-Iraq war Canada expressed its concern about that senseless conflict which virtually decimated an entire generation of young people.

In March 1988, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark condemned the use of chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians in northern Iraq, and asked the Secretary-General of the UN to consider sending an expert inquiry to the region. As one of the first nations to have encountered chemical warfare on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915, Canada has always felt a special linkage to the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning chemical weapons, to which Iraq and Iran are both signatories.

On July 18, 1988, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said he was encouraged by Iran's announcement that it had accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598, which provides a framework for a negotiated settlement to the Iran-Iraq war. Canada continues to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to mediate the conflict. We have urged Iran and Iraq to approach the Geneva peace talks resolutely and in a spirit of co-operation. We hope both countries will persist in efforts to achieve a just and equitable peace in the Gulf.

Following the cease-fire announcement Canada was asked to contribute to the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). Canada provided some 500 men of the 88 Signals Squadron who were responsible for communications for the UNIIMOG peacekeeping force. Canada has 15 Observers attached to the UNIIMOG.

A Humanitarian Approach

Even in the most difficult political situations, Canada's approach is to remember the humanitarian needs and practical peacekeeping opportunities that must still be addressed. In the months ahead, Canada will continue to press the United Nations for concrete steps to bring a suitable resolution to the conflicts that have plagued the Middle East.

