

## Peacekeeping



**T**HERE ARE, at this very moment, Canadian peacekeepers on active duty in Cyprus, Kashmir and the Middle East. There are two Canadians still in Korea. Since World War II Canadian soldiers have served around the globe in the name and pursuit of peace — in Palestine, Korea, Cyprus, Egypt, in India and Pakistan, in West New Guinea (West Irian), in the Congo, in Yemen and in Indochina, in Lebanon and in Nigeria.

Peacekeeping was never the Armed Forces' major occupation. It never involved more than a couple of thousand troops; usually it was a few dozen here, a few hundred there. But for their fellow citizens it had a special significance. As John Holmes wrote in 1967: "The art and science of peacekeeping is of special interest to Canadians because we have been involved in it more than almost any other country and it has, in fact, been incorporated into our image as our role in the world."

The image has undergone a substantial change

in recent years. There was a time when serious men and women believed that the honest broker in the blue beret could exercise a kind of magic, and for a while, in Suez for example, the magic seemed to work. It has faded and in some situations it never appeared at all. Peacekeeping has proved an endless job, at times dangerous (for example, nine Canadians were killed in the Middle East last August). It has also been frustrating, fascinating and educational. In the search for peace success comes in thin slices (as both President Ford and Henry Kissinger have recently noted).

Prime Minister Trudeau recently listed the top priorities of the Armed Forces and peacekeeping is there, just after the defence of Canada's sovereignty, the defence of the continent and the commitments to NATO. It remains a job to which Canada, and Canadians, are committed as long as there is a chance that peace will follow peacekeeping.



*Two Canadians were killed in those days, both by small arms, and nineteen were wounded, mostly by mortar fire. We were in the middle. It was by no means boring. . . .* CYPRUS, 1974.