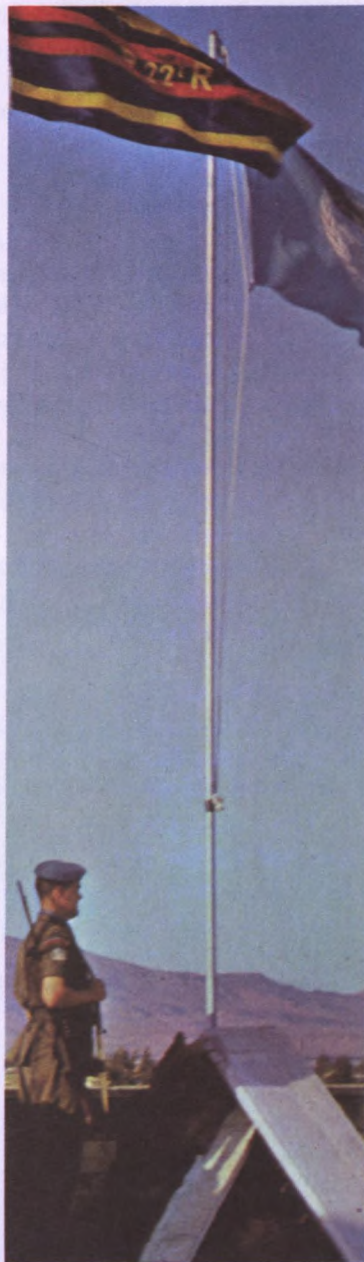


# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Member of Canadian UN contingent  
in Cyprus

As a leading middle power, Canada is engaged in the continuing search for peace and international well-being, in the struggle for better social and economic conditions among less fortunate peoples through technical and financial assistance, and in the pursuit of wider and freer international commerce.

The bases of Canadian foreign policy are its membership in the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and its relations with the United States.

Responsibility for the conduct of Canada's international relations rests primarily with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his ministry, the Department of External Affairs.

Canada's first diplomatic mission, the Canadian Legation (now Embassy) at Washington, was opened in 1927. Today Canadian interests are represented abroad by 82 embassies, 24 high commissioners' offices, 13 consulates general, 5 consulates and 13 permanent missions to international organizations. As the national capital, Ottawa plays host to 79 embassies and 19 offices of high commissioners, many of which have consular or trade offices in other parts of the country.

Canada is a senior partner and a major participant in Commonwealth affairs. The present-day Commonwealth has evolved from the small group of British Dominions which joined with Britain to form such an association in 1931 to an imposing family of 27 sovereign states, covering roughly a quarter of the earth's surface and representing about 755 million people of many colours, creeds and languages.

Within this global family, Canada is involved in active consultation and co-operation in such projects as the Colombo Plan, the Canada-West Indies Aid Programme and the Special Commonwealth-Africa Aid Programme. Scholarships, student and teacher exchanges and military training are arranged under Commonwealth auspices.