

Canada is a long-standing participant in United Nations peace-keeping operations, and its present contribution of about 1,500 military personnel to the UN is the largest of any single country. Canada contributes about 860 troops to UNEF, about 500 to UNFICYP, about 160 to UNDOF, 20 observers to UNTSO, and nine observers to UNMOGIP. The Government's continuing commitment to peace-keeping was confirmed by the decision, announced in November 1975 in connection with the Defence Structure Review, that in the period ahead up to 2,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces would be available for peace-keeping duty, and that one of the principal continuing functions of the Canadian Armed Forces would be to participate in UN peace-keeping activities. It is true that, since 1964, when the UN Force went to Cyprus, the only new operations have been in the Middle East but, in a world of rising tensions based on social and economic disparities as well as ethnic and cultural grievances, the function of third-party observation and mediation is unlikely to be neglected. The main question is whether in each case the UN or some other body (regional organizations for example) can perform the function best.

Canada has traditionally believed that participation in UN peace-keeping operations implied an attitude of impartiality in respect of the parties to the dispute and that the degree of objectivity required to that end precluded active involvement in efforts to settle disputes. Canada has not hesitated, nevertheless, to state its views on the issues in dispute and has voted in the Assembly as it sees fit. For example, Canada abstained in 1976 on a resolution on Cyprus that failed to make any reference to the need to support and co-operate with the peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Moreover, Canada has consistently argued that its peace-keeping commitments are subject to review in the light of efforts being made towards settlement of the disputes, adequate financial support, and feasible methods of operation. Canada is free to withdraw from any peace-keeping operation if, in the judgment of the Government, the operation is ineffective or imposes costs that are too great. Finally, Canada has continued to serve on the Assembly's Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, where some progress has recently been made on agreed guidelines for the authorization and control of such operations.

## **B. Disarmament**

The UN continues to be the principal forum in which to focus world attention on the need to limit and reduce the levels of military forces and armaments and for the exchange of views among member states on disarmament issues. The actual negotiation, however, of arms-control agreements intended to have universal application has been conducted since 1959 in smaller negotiating forums linked to, but not formally part of, the UN system. The current forum, the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD), has 31 members, of which eight are Western members (including Canada), eight are Soviet-bloc members, 11 are non-aligned countries and four are from Latin America. The Committee suffers a serious disadvantage from the absence of France and China -- the former has declined to occupy its seat and China is not a member.