

flexibility and innovation could undermine the maintenance of a durable verification regime.

- Terrain and environmental/climatic factors may affect the possibility of detection, target discrimination, area coverage, false alarm rate, ease of operation and maintenance, communication links, preservation and distribution of raw data from sensors, types of raw data from sensors, sensor types and platforms, reporting conventions, control and management of the system, and direct participation in the system by the parties to the conflict.
- Though the Sinai model appears particularly well suited to disputes where the proximity of hostile forces invites confrontation and heightens fears of surprise attack, such conditions alone will not ensure the successful application of the model. Gross asymmetries in organizational/technological sophistication and operational doctrines may affect utility calculations regarding the interposition of third parties and technical systems to assist in the verification of agreements, particularly if these were perceived (especially by the weaker side) to be used for intelligence gathering purposes.

#### 4. Implications of the Sinai Experience for Canada

The foregoing analysis of the Sinai experience and its potential application to other borders and regions has shown that various components of the Sinai model, appropriately modified, could make an important contribution to stability and confidence-building in other parts of the world. What is less immediately clear are the ways in which Canada might contribute to the kinds of conflict resolution initiatives that would involve the design, implementation and maintenance of regional verification systems.

That Canada might wish to adopt a more active role in this area could be viewed as a logical extension of an ongoing commitment to international peacekeeping. Canada has a long history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations including, among others, the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights, the Cyprus peacekeeping force (UNFICYP) and more recent

participation in a non-UN mission, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai. Canada's participation in the MFO in particular has important implications for longer-term Canadian involvement in the resolution of regional conflicts.

On April 12, 1985, in response to requests from Egypt and Israel, the Canadian government agreed to participate in the MFO, the multinational peacekeeping group charged with verifying compliance with the security provisions of the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. The Canadian contingent, which officially assumed active duty on March 31, 1986, replaced a combined Australia-New Zealand peacekeeping force which had provided the MFO with helicopter support since its inception in 1982. Canada's contribution to the MFO consists of the Rotary Wing Aviation Unit, flying nine CH-135 Twin Huey helicopters, with associated support. The overall responsibility of the Canadian contingent is one of aviation support; the specific contribution to verification includes the observer mission (both reconnaissance and verification), temporary observation post insert/extract, logistic support, and search and rescue standby.<sup>66</sup>

This is the first peacekeeping force Canada has agreed to join that has not been officially sanctioned by the United Nations, suggesting that Canadian policymakers may be prepared in certain circumstances to accept the challenge of promoting international peace and security even in the absence of traditional institutional mechanisms as offered by the United Nations. Given that further peacekeeping missions may lack the political support or logistical infrastructure provided by an international organization, Canada could be called upon again to offer manpower and expertise. In short, a transition to non-traditional modes of peacekeeping might provide Canada with a unique opportunity to innovatively apply multimethod peacekeeping and verification techniques to a variety of regional conflict situations.

One area which proved to be a key ingredient of success in the Sinai Field Mission — private industry expertise — holds particular

<sup>66</sup> M.R. Dabros (Captain), "The Multinational Force and Observers: A New Experience in Peacekeeping for Canada", *Canadian Defence Quarterly* (Autumn 1986), pp. 32-35.

