

### Canada would be a UN peacekeeper in the Middle East

*During a debate in the House of Commons on October 16, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, stated that Canada would be willing to participate in a United Nations peacekeeping force on the cessation of hostilities in the Middle East. In Mr. Sharp's words:*

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...Canada remains prepared to play its part in a United Nations context if there is a useful role for us. We could envisage a contribution to peacekeeping if desired and required by the parties as well as the continuation of peace-observation operations.

These would, of course, be under the authority of the United Nations for we consider, as I said at New York on September 25, that only under such an authority do these operations stand the best chance of success. Canada has participated in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization since 1954. While as a result of the current hostilities some of the UNTSO posts in the Suez Canal area have had to be evacuated, I should like to emphasize that UNTSO continues to exist even

though it is unable to pursue fully at the present all of its commitments. It is important that it remain intact for future duty.

If the parties to the conflict are prepared to have a peacekeeping force constituted under the authority of the United Nations, we would be prepared to make our contribution. However, I would emphasize that parties to the conflict would first have to agree on the basis of a settlement and terms of reference for such a force for Canada to accept participation in peacekeeping. That is a lesson that our experience, particularly in Indochina, has taught us. Unless there is basic agreement by the parties involved, the peacekeeping functions cannot be discharged satisfactorily....

### Development aid to Ghana, Zaire, India and Bangladesh

A major project in northern Ghana will be financed by \$6 million from Canada, half in loan funds and half in grants, over the next five years.

The Canadian funds will be used for mechanical or electrical pumps, for new reservoirs to improve distribution systems, and for drilling about 2,300 new wells. Canadians will also train Ghanaians in pump and equipment operation.

#### Zaire

Canada will provide Zaire with a \$36-million long-term loan to build a major radio communications link which will become a vital part of the pan-African telecommunications system.

The project involves the largest bilateral financial agreement the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has ever undertaken in Africa.

Under the agreement, Zaire will also provide \$10 million for the project, which includes construction of the third link of the network, supply and installation of telecommunications equipment for both the second and third links, and

the training of Zairians under a \$1-million Canadian grant.

#### India

Canada will provide \$5,172,000 to help India complete Stage IV of the giant Kundah hydroelectric project in Tamil Nadu state. Since 1955 Canada has contributed about \$44 million toward Kundah, which powers 100,000 agricultural pumpsets irrigating 400,000 acres and has also stimulated industrial development. CIDA is now lending \$3.97 million for Canadian generating equipment and granting \$1.2 million for Canadian engineering services to implement Stage IV, which will bring installed capacity to 450 megawatts.

Canadian experience and equipment will help the Tinsplate Company of India enlarge its plant at Golmuri, Bihar state, in the next two years. Wean United (Canada) Ltd., Cambridge, Ontario will supply the engineering services, licences, technology and equipment required to establish a combination electrolytic tin- and chrome-plating

facility. A \$2.1-million CIDA loan, through a general line-of-credit agreement between Canada and India, will finance the project.

#### Bangladesh

Canada will lend Bangladesh \$8 million to help complete its first earth satellite receiving station near Chittagong, which will become the terminal for the country's overseas communications. The Canadian funds will finance the station's construction by the contractor, RCA of Canada Ltd., Montreal. Completion of this project, recommended by the World Bank and by the telecommunications adviser serving with the United Nations Relief Operation Dacca (UNROD), includes testing of equipment and handover of the station in operating order to Bangladesh authorities.

### Canadians in Middle East war area

At the beginning of hostilities in the Middle East there were relatively few Canadian civilians in the area and there have been no casualties among Canadian residents or tourists, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp stated on October 16.

Canadian diplomatic missions in the war area, which are concerned about the safety of Canadians, endeavour to keep track of their whereabouts. Contact is usually made by telephone, when it is possible, said Mr. Sharp.

Embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv are not aware of any injuries to Canadians in their area and report that all who have been contacted are safe and well.

#### Canadians serving with UNTSO

Canadian Forces members of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) in the Middle East are "doing an excellent job under extremely difficult conditions", UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim advised the Canadian Government recently.

Some UN observation posts sustained damage early in the fighting but there were no Canadian casualties reported to UN Headquarters.

There are 34 Canadians in the war zone, made up of 20 military officers with UNTSO and 14 of their dependents, as well as military attachés and ten dependents in capital cities.