



Peacekeeping: A Canadian Contribution to Peace

The following article was prepared by the Defence Relations Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Canada has been and continues to be a strong supporter of peacekeeping and a major contributor to peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping may be generally defined as the employment of military, para-military or non-military personnel or forces in an area of political conflict, for the purpose of restoring or maintaining the peace. The purpose of peacekeeping is to enable the parties to disengage and to give them confidence that their differences can be settled by negotiation. Peacekeeping activities range from unarmed missions with a role of observation and reporting only, through roles of investigation, supervision and control, to the interposition of armed military units and formations between the parties.

Peacekeeping has not been confined exclusively to the post-World War II period. Previously there were some very successful international police operations, such as the 1935 peacekeeping force, established by the League of Nations during the Saar plebiscite, which resolved the dispute between France and Germany. On this topic Anthony Eden wrote in his memoirs: "The



Canadian peacekeeping troops patrolling "Green Line" in Nicosia, Cyprus. DND Photos

machinery in the SAAR both before and during the plebiscite gave a glimpse of a supranational salvation to a world which was imprisoning itself all the while more closely within the confines of the National State...."

Since the beginning of the nuclear age, the concept of peacekeeping has been perceived by the international community as a practical means of limiting and mediating disputes and avoiding the outbreak of a major conflict.

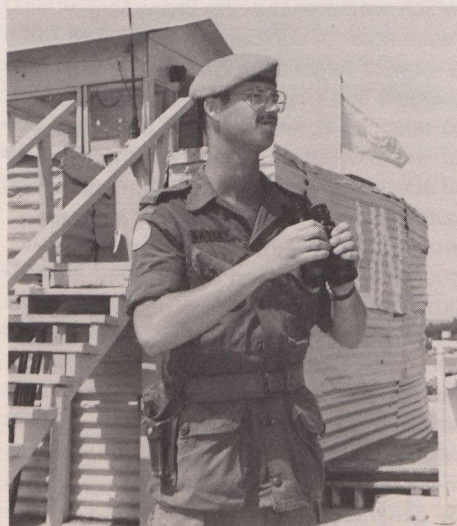
Since 1947, Canada has participated in a total of 15 UN peacekeeping operations. Canada's preference has been that peacekeeping operations be conducted under UN jurisdiction, and that the UN machinery for doing so be strengthened. Recognizing, however, that this is not always possible, in particular where great power interests are involved, Canada has participated in peacekeeping-type missions outside UN auspices: the 1954 and 1973 Control Commissions in Indo-China and the International Observer Team in Nigeria. A summary of Canadian participation in these operations is contained in the annex.

Canada contributes forces to three current UN peacekeeping operations and has agreed to participate in another peacekeeping mission in the Middle East not under UN auspices, commencing in 1986. These operations are:

(a) *The United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO)* This, the oldest of the UN operations in the Middle East, was permanently established by the Security Council in 1948. Canada has participated in UNTSO since 1954. Its task is to observe and maintain the ceasefire ordered by the Security Council and to assist in the supervision of the application and observance of the General Armistice Agreements between Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel. The Canadian participation at present consists of 20 officers, out of a total of 297 members.

(b) *The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)* Created in May 1974 by Security Council Resolution 350 after the Yom Kippur War, its task is to observe and maintain the ceasefire between Israel and Syria by interposing troops between the parties concerned. The force is deployed on the Golan Heights. Canada provides a contingent of approximately 220 personnel, whose task is to provide logistic, communications and other technical support to the force. UNDOF enjoys the cooperation of both Israel and Syria and has been highly successful in carrying out its mission.

(c) *The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)* This force was established in 1964 following the outbreak of hostilities between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish



Member of Canadian peacekeeping force on duty at observation post in Cyprus.