

command under the leadership of the United States was an unprecedented event in the history of the United Nations. It was the first time that armed forces of different nations, including Canada, engaged in an operation to restore international peace and security under a common flag of a world organization. The "police action" in Korea, however, has proven to be an exception rather than a rule in UN peacekeeping operations.

It was under the terms of the Uniting for Peace Resolution that the General Assembly made its first major peacekeeping commitment with the establishment of the UNEF in the Middle East in 1956, following the invasion of Egypt by Israel supported by Britain and France.

The UNEF supervised the withdrawal of French, Israeli and British troops from Egyptian territory. They then interposed themselves between the Egyptian and Israeli forces along armistice demarcation lines and along the international frontier in the Sinai. The peacekeepers were equipped only with light arms for self defence and the host country, Egypt, was consulted on the choice of national contingents who had received consent to enter its territory. Most significant was the fact that the overall objectives of the peacekeepers were to be attained by their presence rather than by fighting. The UNEF served as a buffer between the belligerents for 11 years until it was removed upon the request of Egyptian President Nasser in 1967. The experience gained by UNEF became the cornerstone of all subsequent UN peacekeeping operations.

During the Lebanese Crisis of 1958, the United Nations formed the United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL). Although their functions excluded the tasks related to "good offices" or mediation, the UNOGIL contingent provided practical diplomatic reinforcement of local authorities following the withdrawal of American and British forces.

The United Nations operation in the Congo (present day Zaire) turned out to be a complex peacekeeping operation. Initially, the function of the United Nations Congo Operation/Opération des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC) was to ensure the withdrawal of Belgian troops and assist the government in the maintenance of law and order. The ONUC mandate was subsequently modified to include the preservation of the political independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Congo. This was done by reunifying the splintered nation through the use of arms against secessionist Katangese gendarmes and foreign mercenaries.

When the mission ended in 1964, ONUC appeared to be a financial disaster for the United Nations. Its \$400 million cost produced a decisive split in the membership of the Organization and the bitterness which it inspired among Member States virtually paralyzed the 19th session of the General Assembly. In spite of such tribulations, the Congo (Zaire) maintained its territorial integrity, the UN survived, and the invaluable experience gained from the process of conducting such large-scale, complicated operations became useful shortly thereafter in Cyprus.

During the same period as the ONUC operation were two UN missions, one in West Irian (West New Guinea) in 1962 and the other in Yemen in 1963. In distinct

## UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

OPERATION	FROM-TO	LOCATION	PARTICIPATION AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CONFLICT	
			UNITED NATIONS	CANADIAN FORCES
UNMOGIP	1949-1979	Kashmir	89	27
UNCK	1950-1957	Korea	unknown	8,000
UNTSO	1948	Palestine	500	20
UNEF	1956-1967	Egypt	6,000	1,007
UNOGIL	1958-1959	Lebanon	591	77
ONUC	1960-1964	Congo (Zaire)	20,000	421
UNTEA	1962-1963	West Irian	1,600	13
UNYOM	1963-1964	Yemen	183	36
UNFICYP	1964-	Cyprus	6,800	1,126
UNIPOM	1965-1966	India-Pakistan	200	112
UNEF II	1973-1979	Egypt	6,000	1,145
UNDOF	1974-	Israel-Syria	1,250	220
UNIFIL	1978-	Lebanon	7,000	117

contrast to the problematic ONUC operation, these two missions were implemented with relatively minimal disagreement among the UN members.

In the first instance, the peacekeepers proved instrumental to a peaceful transfer of sovereignty from the Netherlands to Indonesia. It was a unique experience in which the authority of territory was placed under the temporary administration of the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA).

In the case of the United Nations Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM), the United Nations personnel observed and certified the military disengagement between the factions struggling for control over Yemen. Mediation efforts by the Secretary-General's special representative were inconclusive and the mission was terminated. It is noteworthy that the operation originated from the initiative of the Secretary-General who also oversaw it until its demise in 1964.

The same year, intercommunal violence between the Greeks and Turks in Cyprus escalated into direct fighting. Utilizing experience gained in the Congo, the United Nations established the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) which was interposed between both communities. Later the UNFICYP assumed the broader authority of adjudicating local disputes as well as providing a civilian police force (UNCIPOL) together with emergency economic assistance. Although its initial mandate was for three months only, the concern that the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force would destabilize the volatile situation on the island induced the UN to extend the duration of the mission (at six-month intervals) to this day. The 1974 Cyprus War led to a dramatic and flexible response by UNFICYP to restore peace, organize cease-fires, and provide humanitarian assistance in the midst of fighting.

In 1965 war broke out between India and Pakistan along the line patrolled by UNMOGIP in Kashmir and the length of the Indo-Pakistan border in the West. In response to the escalating conflict and a number of Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate