



CANADA

No. 46

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 1974

CANADIAN ANSWER TO THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONCERNING THE INCREASE OF THE  
CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN CYPRUS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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Canada

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In response to your request of July 22, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Canadian Government has today decided to augment the size of the Canadian Contingent to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

While the precise details of the size and nature of the augmentation are still being worked out, it is the intention of the Canadian military authorities to bring the Canadian Contingent up to the size and capability of an infantry battalion. This would involve an increase from the Contingent's present size of 486 men to approximately 950. It is anticipated that the airlift of the augmentation force to Cyprus can begin within 96 hours.

The Canadian Government has asked that in transmitting this decision to you I make clear that the augmentation is to be considered a temporary measure which will be reviewed when the current mandate of the Force is reviewed prior to its expiry on December 15, 1974. I have also been instructed to ask you to obtain assurances that the augmentation of the United Nations Force in general and the Canadian Contingent in particular is acceptable to the parties directly concerned in Cyprus.

We understand it is proposed that the augmented Force operate under the mandate provided to the original Force in 1964. However, it is clear that as a result of recent developments in Cyprus the circumstances there have changed substantially. These changes will necessarily have implications for the roles and tasks that the Force as a whole and the Canadian Contingent in particular are asked to carry out in the period ahead and it is the hope of the Canadian authorities that the necessary clarification can be obtained as quickly as possible. In fact there are a number of aspects of the new situation that will need to be kept under review and it is our hope that this might be achieved by regular meetings between you and your staff and representatives of force contributors.

Yours sincerely,

Mitchell Sharp