Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peace-Building

The United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and European Union have all used their military and diplomatic resources in peacekeeping and peacemaking missions in recent times. The UN has been doing it since the Suez Crisis in the 1950s, but NATO has also become increasingly involved where the UN did not intervene – in Kosovo in 1999 and Afghanistan in 2001.

Peacekeeping has changed radically since Canadian Lester Pearson put forward his proposal in 1956. Traditional efforts prevent conflict focused on the physical security of a state and its people. In the past decade, however, the understanding of security and the prevention of conflict has gained a new perspective. Governments, NGOs, and international organizations have come to understand that military intervention alone cannot ensure world security. It is also necessary to eliminate the many causes of conflict. These include poverty, HIV/AIDS, and human rights abuses. Known as the Human Security Agenda, this new approach looks beyond military action to the delivery of humanitarian aid and government services and the promotion of democratic principles and value.

Development specialists and police forces, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed in Haiti in 2004, are often part of these new peacekeeping forces. They help to conduct democratic elections, set up medical facilities, and deliver aid to local people. Many international peace efforts today are in fact peace-building.

What brought about this change? Today, the global community realizes there is more to ensuring peace and security than simply ending conflicts. There is a need to rebuild societies, economies, governments, and institutions to eliminate the problems that lead to conflicts in the first place. As a result, peacekeeping missions have a broad mandate to create physical, political, and economic security in societies and states around the world.

Inevitably, this new role in the peacekeeping mandate has led to longer and more complex missions. It has increased costs for both the United Nations and participating countries. Yet pursuing this new path is essential if the international community is truly committed to building a peaceful world.

Peacekeeping is an important aspect of Canada's national heritage and a reflection of our fundamental beliefs. It is a dynamic concept that responds to changes in the international environment in order to continue to develop security for people affected by war. Canada builds on our established peacekeeping tradition to make strong and imaginative contributions to international peace and security.

Peacekeeping is also a significant component of Canada's foreign policy and our contribution to the multilateral security system. Fifty years of experience in peacekeeping and participation in an overwhelming majority of peacekeeping missions mandated by the United Nations Security Council has established an international reputation for Canada.

There have been 60 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948. As of March 2005, there were 17 UN peacekeeping missions under way with 67 000 soldiers from 103 different countries. The projected cost of these operations in 2005 is approximately $5 billion. Canada contributes $77 million annually to peacekeeping operations and had 327 soldiers actively involved in UN peacekeeping missions as of March 2005.
UNTSCO Since May 1948
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
Fatalities: 41
Appropriation 2005: $29.04 million (gross)

UNMOGIP Since January 1949
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
Fatalities: 9
Appropriation 2005: $8.37 million (gross)

UNFICYP Since March 1964
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
Fatalities: 174
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $50.69 million (gross)
including voluntary contributions of one third from Cyprus and $6.5 million from Greece

UNDOF Since June 1974
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $40.90 million (gross)

UNIFIL Since March 1978
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Fatalities: 250
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $92.96 million (gross)

MINURSO Since April 1991
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
Fatalities: 10
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $44.00 million (gross)

UNOMIG Since August 1993
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
Fatalities: 7
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $31.93 million (gross)

UNMIK Since June 1999
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
Fatalities: 32
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $294.63 million (gross)

UNAMSIL Since October 1999
United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
Fatalities: 159
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $291.60 million (gross)

MONUC Since November 1999
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Fatalities: 54
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $857.83 million (gross)

UNMEE Since July 2000
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
Fatalities: 8
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $205.33 million (gross)

UNMSET Since May 2002
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor
Fatalities: 13
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $82.21 million (gross)

UNMIL Since September 2003
United Nations Mission in Liberia
Fatalities: 36
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $822.11 million (gross)

UNOCI Since April 2004
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
Fatalities: 2
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $378.47 million (gross)

MINUSTAH Since June 2004
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
Fatalities: 4
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $379.05 million (gross)

ONUB Since June 2004
United Nations Operation in Burundi
Fatalities: 8
Approved budget 07/04–06/05: $329.71 million (gross)

UNMIS Since March 2005
United Nations Mission in the Sudan
Commitment authority 07/04–06/05: $279.50 million (gross)