



Planning for Peace

April 29th, 2014

The United Nations

- October 1945: 51 countries signed a charter that established the United Nations.
- Membership was open to all recognized nations.
- There are two main bodies: the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The General Assembly

- Each member nation has a seat.
- It provides a forum in which members can debate issues.
- Can condemn actions of other nations through speeches and resolutions.
- Use economic sanctions.
- Deploy armed forces.
- Each member nation has the right to vote to decide on an issue.

The Security Council

- There are five permanent members (Britain, France, USA, Russia and China) and 10 non permanent members.
- It maintains peace and security.
- And it can deploy peacekeeping missions.
- Decisions must have the consent of 9 members.
- Each of the big 5 has a veto power.

Canada and the UN

- The UN pledged to abolish disease and famine and to protect human rights.
- Canadian John Humphrey was the leading author in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- It has benefitted millions of people worldwide. (social, economic and peacekeeping)
- Canada has been a strong supporter from the start. Canadian peacekeepers have been involved in almost every UN operation since 1956.

The Korean Conflict

- WW2 had left Korea divided. North Korea was communist and supported by USSR and China. South Korea was a democracy supported by the USA.
- In 1950, North Korean invaded South Korea.
- The UN called a meeting and they decided to help out.
- Canada sent thousands of troops and three naval destroyers to Korea. The UN forces were lead by General Douglas MacArthur (an American)

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- MacArthur tried to drive invaders over the border.
- Lester Pearson urged a ceasefire.
- The USA considered using the atomic bomb but didn't. MacArthur planned to invade China. If this had happened, so would have World War 3.
- Ceasefire was reached in 1953.

Suez Crisis

- The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas. It was opened in 1869.
- 1956: Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser took over and threatened to ban ships travelling to Israel.
- So Israel, Britain and France planned Operation Musketeer to regain control of the canal.
- The UN ordered them to cease hostilities. But they landed troops anyways. The USSR immediately supported Egypt.

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- The US was angry with Britain and France for not asking them first, but still threatened retaliation against the USSR.
- Canada was divided on the issue. Conservatives wanted to support Britain but Louis St. Laurent condemned their actions.
- Lester Pearson went to the UN to solve the problem. He proposed a multinational peacekeeping force be installed in the war zone.
- The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was sent in to bring about peace. It was led by a Canadian.

Former Territories

- Commonwealth: Countries that were once part of the British Empire.
- Francophonie: Organization of French speaking states, often former French colonies.
- Canada was a member of both.
- Colombo Plan: Provide aid and money to less developed organizations in the Commonwealth.