

The Peacekeepers

Directed by Paul Cowan
Produced by Adam Symansky & Paul Saadoun

The Peacekeepers:

The Peacekeepers was shot between the summer of 2002 and the spring of 2004 a period when the Democratic Republic of Congo was emerging from a devastating civil war where three and half million Congolese had perished. The country was struggling with national reconciliation which would, hopefully, culminate in country-wide elections in the summer of 2006. It was a period of tremendous instability.

With unprecedented access to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping, the film provides an intimate and dramatic portrait of the struggle to save a failed state. We follow the determined and often desperate manouvers to avert another disaster, this time in the Democratic republic of Congo (the DRC).

The film cuts back and forth between the staff at the United Nations headquarters in New York and events on the ground in the DRC. We are with the peacekeepers in the "Crisis room" as they balance the risk of loss of life on the ground with the enormous sums of money required from uncertain donor countries. And we are with UN troops as the northeast Congo erupts and the future of the DRC, if not all of central Africa, hangs in the balance.

In the background, but often impinging on peacekeeping decisions, are previous political decisions and failures.

Paul Cowan:

During his career, Paul Cowan has written and directed more than 20 documentaries, including the Genie award-winning "Westray", which tells the story behind the 1992 Nova Scotia coal mine disaster that killed 26 men; "Give Me Your Soul", a revealing look at the porn industry; "Lessons", a film about Grade 7 students and teachers in Montreal (1995); and the 1992 feature "Double or Nothing: The Rise and Fall of Robert Campeau", which follows the spectacular rise and fall of the Canadian entrepreneur.

Find out more about the film at:
<http://www.onf.ca/webextension/peace/en/>

Find out more about United Nations Peacekeeping Operations at:
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/>