

The Middle East

Occupied Territories

Canadian policy regarding the Arab-Israeli dispute consists of bringing a fair minded perspective to the dispute and devising practical contributions toward its peaceful resolution. The requirements of a durable peace are the firm establishment of Israel's right to secure and recognized boundaries, a principle underlying United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; and the recognition of the legitimate rights of Palestinians, including the right to a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Canada believes that the nature of such a homeland can be determined only by the disputing parties in negotiations to that end.

Canada continues to support American efforts to help bring peace to the Middle East and has welcomed, in particular, the recent efforts by Secretary of State Shultz to develop proposals acceptable to all parties. Canada is hopeful that his initiative will serve to move the peace process forward.

Canada supports the Shultz proposals because they recognize territorial compromise and mutual recognition as important elements of a peaceful settlement. In a recent letter to Prime Minister Shamir, Prime Minister Mulroney urged him to be forthcoming, imaginative and politically courageous in responding to the new American peace proposals.

Canada regrets the mounting scale of violence in the occupied territories and calls upon all parties to exercise restraint in refraining from further acts of violence and/or terrorism. Canada considers that human rights violations in the territories are unacceptable, and inconsistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Iran-Iraq War

The escalation of the Iran-Iraq War through the exchange of missiles on civilian population centres and the use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq underlines the need for both sides to withdraw from confrontation and engage in negotiations aimed at peaceful settlement. Canada strongly supports international efforts to promote a settlement through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. Canada also supports a follow-on resolution which would include an arms embargo on Iran should that state fail to accept Resolution 598. Since the outbreak of hostilities, Canada has embargoed arms sales to the belligerents. Following the apparent use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish population in northern Iraq,