

practical control are expanded further. Fortunately, there has been no super-power confrontation in or over Lebanon.

The Lebanon crisis has had a profound impact on the prospects for the peace process. In the past few weeks new and significant initiatives have been announced. Particularly striking was President Reagan's statement on September 1 signalling the United States' resolve to shift from mediator to more active participant in attempts to resolve the dispute. This is a welcome development; President Reagan's proposals merit the most careful consideration by all sides. Canada is in accord with the main lines of the US initiatives:

- the insistence on security for Israel and on full autonomy and self-government for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza in the Camp David framework;
- the participation of Jordan and the Palestinians in the autonomy talks. We have noted with particular interest the desire of King Hussein of Jordan to work out with the Palestinians a position on the region's future;
- the opposition to Israeli annexation of the territories.

**Palestinian
state possible**

We have a somewhat different approach on some of the US proposals. While we would have no problem with self-governing Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan, we would not rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state. For Canada the key is that we do not want to prejudge the outcome of eventual negotiations among the participants when they sit down to talk.

We will be following closely how the US translates its initiative into concrete action in the weeks and months to come. We will all want to give the Americans support as they attempt to translate their ideas in the short term into reality.

Hard on the heels of the Reagan statement came the resolution on the Arab-Israeli dispute by the Arab Summit in Fez. It is too early to have detailed views about the resolution but in a tentative way we see the Arab move in the following terms:

- we welcome reference in the plan to Security Council guarantees for peace. We would hope to have more details on this position, particularly the way in which all states in the region would be secure and have recognized frontiers;
- the Fez ideas will have to be judged on whether they can assist in moving the peace process forward. We note that there is little in them that deals with a mechanism of negotiations which we consider important;
- if the plan leads to negotiations for a balanced settlement in the Middle East which respects the principles of Resolution 242 then we think that a positive first step will have been taken.