

Each time, however, there is an outbreak of terrorism in the Middle East, the chances for meaningful negotiations are endangered. I am thinking particularly of the recent tragedy at Kiryat Shmonah. All such senseless terrorism is to be condemned, regardless of the motivations attributed to it. Such actions lead to sharp reactions and reprisals. These are equally damaging to a climate in which productive negotiations can take place. So let there be an end to senseless terrorism wherever it may occur.

As you know, the Canadian Government has never attempted to assert any preconceived notions on what might constitute the details of any eventual agreement. These are for the parties themselves to work out.

We continue to believe, however, that Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967 does offer a ready and suitable framework on which to base a settlement.

The resolution was carefully drafted so as to meet the essential positions of both sides as well as to set down an equitable balance of obligations. That the resolution was successful in achieving these two objectives was made clear in its reception by most parties to the dispute as an acceptable starting point in the search for a Middle East peace. Canada's own unfailing support for the resolution is qualified only by our insistence founded upon our close association with the drafting that it always be given a strictly literal reading. We have resisted every effort to interpret it or to emphasize one part as being more important than another.

What continues to be as important for Canada now, as it was in the past, is that the parties to the dispute begin the process towards peace on the basis of the principles enunciated in Resolution 242. Let us hope that the October 1973 war will mark the last round of 25 years of Middle East hostilities and that the next quarter century will be witness to a new era of peace. The many real problems of survival on this planet that have been brought out at the recent United Nations Special Session on raw material and development require mankind's undivided energies. We can no longer afford strife and sterile confrontations, with their wasteful dispersal of human and material resources.

1974 may be the turning point for the Middle East. Let it be a year of negotiation aimed at arriving at a peace settlement. Within the altered circumstances brought about by far-reaching changes still taking place, there is surely contained a real opportunity for peace which must not be missed. Extracting that peace will by no means be easy, but the Canadian Government is convinced that, with perseverance and with more of the same courage and wisdom that characterized the agreements to disengage, it can be done.