

CANADA IN THE WORLD

" Some countries say things, other countries do things. Canada is a country that tries to do things. That is why we have a good reputation. We do not seek the opportunity of every crisis to make a speech or an inflammatory statement. We try to solve problems."

Joe Clark
Secretary of State
for External Affairs

MIDDLE EAST

- There are two elements to this issue that we have to be seized of. One is its complexity in the Middle East, and the other is the acute interest of Canadians, both those whose religious or personal roots are in the region and those generally who want us to play a constructive role.
- Our policy has been evolving step-by-step under governments of the Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties for some time.
- There is a particular concern about the PLO, and I made clear in my statement the apprehension that many of us feel about the extremist elements that continue to be associated with the PLO.
- Certainly the covenant and the language of the covenant are very offensive.
- I want to see the PLO disavow the covenant. I was pleased at the progress that was apparently made in the conversation between Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Arafat in Paris, but that is not enough. That is Mr. Arafat's position, but we have to see that followed by the PLO as a body.
- My view is that we have more influence - and I do not want to exaggerate it - upon the PLO on this and other questions, having improved the level of our relations with them, than we had when it was at a lower level.
- There is a requirement on all of us to continue to keep up the pressure on I suppose what we can call the Arafat elements in the PLO. It is also very important that we contemplate what would happen within the PLO if the elements Mr. Arafat represents were failing and were unable to indicate any kind of progress in the world and the balance within that organization went to more extreme elements. I do not think that we want that to happen.