

apartheid were equally directed at inducing South Africa to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435, the only universally accepted framework for Namibian independence. Namibia also featured in discussions at the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers meeting in Lusaka, during which the Committee pledged to "increase its efforts to bring the plight of the Namibian people and South African aggression to the attention of the international community." Canada continued to provide aid to Namibians directly and through the United Nations.

The Middle East

Canada's longstanding commitment to regional peace and security in the Middle East found expression in practical contributions to the peace process, as the Arab-Israeli dispute and Iran-Iraq war moved into new phases of conflict. On the regional front, Canada continued to strengthen its bilateral relations with Middle East states, following the successful visit paid by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel in 1986.

Over the course of 1987/88, Canada sought to bring a fair-minded perspective to the Arab-Israeli dispute and devise practical contributions toward its peaceful resolution. Canada has long regarded the requirements of a durable peace to be the firm establishment of Israel's right to secure and recognized boundaries, a principle underlying UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the recognition of the legitimate rights of Palestinians, including that of a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Canada believes that the nature of such a homeland can be determined only by the parties to the dispute in negotiations to that end.

During the latter part of 1987, the Arab-Israeli dispute entered a new phase marked by the uprising of Palestinian residents in the Israeli-occupied territories on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Canada followed with concern these developments, which underlined the need to move towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Canada regretted the mounting scale of violence and called upon all parties to exercise restraint in refraining from further acts of violence or terrorism. Of special concern were human rights abuses arising from the Israeli authorities' efforts to restore order through their "iron fist policy." Canada joined other nations in supporting Security Council resolutions opposing these abuses, and the deportation of Palestinians in particular. Canada's position was based on the view that such actions were unacceptable and inconsistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Canada continued to support United States efforts advanced by Secretary of State Schultz to help bring peace to the Middle East. Canada's support for the American proposals was based on their recognition of territorial compromises and mutual recognition as important elements of a peaceful settlement. Canada took every opportunity to contribute through practical measures to the peace process, and to encourage the American initiatives as the latest phase of that process. In a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, Prime Minister Mulroney urged him to be forthcoming and politically courageous in responding to the American proposals. Similarly, on instruction from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canadian ambas-

sadors made representations to Arab governments, requesting that they exercise their influence with PLO and other Palestinian leaders to encourage the Palestinians to provide confirmation of their willingness to recognize the existence of the State of Israel and, thereby, to accept territorial compromise.

As part of continuing efforts to promote well-informed governmental policy on the Middle East, the Department sponsored a tour of the region in February by the chairperson and members of the House Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade. During visits with political leaders and senior officials in Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the occupied territories, including refugee camps in the latter, the delegation was able to gain first-hand impressions of issues underlying the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Additional practical measures undertaken by Canada on a continuing basis were the granting of substantial levels of aid to Egypt and Jordan as moderate Arab states; providing development assistance in the occupied territories through the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv; and continuing to participate in three of the regional peacekeeping organizations, most recently in the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai. In addition, at the Quebec Summit of Francophone countries Canada announced a \$1 million contribution to a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon. It also responded to an appeal from the UN Secretary-General with a grant of \$5 million to the UN Disaster Relief Organization for humanitarian assistance in that country.

Canada continued strongly to support international efforts to promote a peaceful, negotiated settlement to the Iran-Iraq war. The Canadian government gave unequivocal support to the UN Secretary-General and his efforts to mediate the conflict, based on the belief that Security Council Resolution 598 provided the best prospect for a negotiated settlement and a just peace. In support of these objectives, the government maintained its embargo on arms sales to the belligerents, expressed its concern over the use of chemical weapons, and repeatedly urged both sides to undertake conciliatory measures and respect international humanitarian law.

On the bilateral level, Canada continued to promote positive and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the Middle East. The visit to Canada in early October of HRH Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia was indicative of the burgeoning relationship between the two countries. During his visit, Prince Saud met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence, and other parliamentarians as well as with representatives of the media and the business community. The main goals of the visit were economic in nature, with Canada seeking to strengthen commercial ties and the Saudis intent upon diversifying their economic relationships. The visit coincided with a plenary meeting of the Canada-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Commission whose minutes, signed by both Mr. Clark and Prince Saud, provided a framework for future development of trade and economic relations. Another achievement of the meeting was the signing of a trade agreement between the two countries. In bilateral meetings, Prince Saud clarified and expanded upon Saudi foreign policy with particular reference to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Although there were obvious differences in approach to this and other regional questions, the participants noted the