

Condemnation of Terrorism

But we are convinced that these concerns must be, and realistically can only be, pursued by non-violent means. Canada condemns vigorously terrorism in whatever form and from whatever quarter it may occur. It has no place in any efforts to resolve the differences between the parties to this dispute. No one who seeks a role in a negotiated settlement no matter how legitimate his grievances are or how deep his frustrations may be can expect to be accepted at the negotiating table unless he sheds violence in favour of dialogue. Meaningful dialogue depends upon recognition of the existence of Israel and its right of survival.

We have noted with satisfaction that there have been within a relatively short space of time territorial adjustments on two fronts in the form of the existing disengagement agreements. We may also be witnessing a fundamental change of appreciation of existing realities on the part of both sides to the dispute. On the one hand, Arab governments appear more disposed to recognize Israel's right to exist. Israel, for its part, has reaffirmed its intention to pursue the search for peace with its Arab neighbours and to this end has indicated greater recognition of the fact that Palestinian concerns will have to be taken into account in the same way if real peace is to be achieved.

This said, Mr. President, the question is how legitimate Palestinian concerns are to be brought to bear in efforts to reach a just and durable settlement. Canada has firmly resisted giving advice on what form Palestinian representation should take in future negotiations. The claim of the Palestine Liberation Organization to represent the Palestinians is thus one which, in our view, is not for Canada to decide. It is a question which remains to be resolved by the parties directly involved in the course of their continuing efforts to work towards an agreed peace, and Israel in our view is a principal deciding party.

If recent developments have placed new emphasis on certain elements among the numerous factors which must be taken into account in any realistic move toward a peace settlement, nothing which has occurred derogates from Canada's conviction that Security Council Resolution 242 constitutes a valid framework for a just and equitable settlement. It remains our view that the equitable balance of obligations thereby laid down for the parties continues to provide them with important guidelines for their efforts to resolve their differences.