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**APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statements by R.G. Riddell, Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the U.N. on May 7, 1949; and by G. Ignatieff, Canadian Representative, in the Plenary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on May 11, 1949.

Text of Mr. Riddell's Statement

The admission of Israel to the United Nations will, if it is decided upon, mark an important stage in the solution of a problem which has occupied a great deal of the time and attention of this organization. It will, however, be a stage and not a final act. Important questions concerning the relations of Israel with its neighbours are still under discussion. The United Nations has by no means concluded its responsibilities in regard to them. I should like, therefore, in stating the willingness of the Canadian delegation to support the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations, to indicate our attitude towards these continuing problems.

When the Palestine question was brought to the agenda of the United Nations almost exactly two years ago, no plan which commanded any considerable measure of support had been offered for its solution. In taking the problem on its agenda the Assembly was faced with the necessity of reducing the widely varied ideas which were in the minds of individual members into a concrete proposal. It was clear that the solution put forward by the General Assembly had to embody and combine in balance a number of diverse characteristics. It had to give proper consideration to the contending claims of the parties concerned; it had to command acceptance by the majority of the General Assembly required to give it validity; it had to take account of the political realities of the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean; it had to be capable of implementation; there had also to be a reasonable chance that its general principles could withstand and survive any opposition which might emerge; and it had to give a solution which in the end might be expected to meet with acceptance by the people of this area.

Generally speaking, I think the approach to this problem in the Assembly has been characterized by a desire to bring about a reasonable combination of these qualities. Certainly this has been the object of the Canadian delegation in its participation in the Palestine discussions.

The result of these discussions were embodied in the resolution of the assembly of 29 November 1947, which contains a set of recommendations for the future of Palestine. The Assembly recommended that the two communities in Palestine should be separated politically, that they should nevertheless be encouraged to maintain and develop in matters of common interest as close an association as possible through