

Africa's neighbours to impose sanctions, given their extreme economic dependence on South Africa.

In hosting the French-speaking countries Summit (41 states) in Quebec City in September 1987, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (49 countries) in Vancouver in October 1987, Canada will continue to provide a leadership role on this issue.

Central America

Canada's approach to the situation in Central America has been based on support for the Contadora process, the Latin American effort to resolve the regional crisis by discussion and negotiation. Despite the lack of significant progress, Canada has maintained its strong support for Contadora as the best means of achieving a regional settlement. Canada opposes third-party intervention and the promotion of armed insurgency anywhere in Central America. We have expressed this view on numerous occasions to all governments concerned.

A peace plan proposed by Costa Rica has led to a resumption of dialogue between the Central America countries. The five Central America presidents will meet in Guatemala in June to discuss the Costa Rican proposal, which has received the support of the Contadora and Support Groups.

Canada maintains a substantial program of development assistance to Nicaragua, (\$40 million over the past 5 years) the second largest recipient of Canadian assistance in Central America.

Canada has given no military aid to any country in the region.

The Middle East

Canadian policy is to bring a fair-minded perspective to Middle East problems and devise practical contributions toward their resolution.

In the Arab-Israeli dispute, the requirements of a durable peace are the firm establish-

ment of Israel's right to secure and recognized boundaries and the recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinians to a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is essential that there be direct negotiations between the parties to the dispute and that there be international support for these negotiations. Canada accepts the principle of an international conference which could be a mechanism for progress in the peace process, provided the framework is accepted by all concerned.

Canadian priority lies in making practical contributions in support of the efforts of leaders who are willing to take risks for peace, as in the meetings last year between then Israeli Prime Minister Peres, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hassan of Morocco, or the responsible leadership of King Hussein of Jordan. Canada has taken the following concrete steps: granting substantial levels of aid to Egypt and Jordan as important moderates; establishing development assistance programs in the occupied territories; supporting human rights; and participating in three of the regional peace-keeping organizations, most recently in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

Canada has made emergency contributions through international organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist those most directly affected in Lebanon. We also made several representations in Syria and Lebanon to those best placed to lift the siege or at least to permit relief supplies to reach the camps. Canada has joined in international relief efforts in Lebanon, most recently through special contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the International Committee of Red Cross and the Middle East Council of Churches. We seek to encourage a political solution based on national reconciliation.

Canada withdrew its ambassador to Syria in protest because of the proof in court cases of official Syrian complicity in the terrorist attacks on civilian targets in the UK and the FRG. He was returned to Damascus four