

Support for Israel

Mr. Clark's visit to the Middle East concluded in Israel, April 10-14, where meetings were held with Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and President Chaim Herzog.

Speaking at a state dinner hosted by Mr. Shamir, Mr. Clark praised Israel's economic growth and its efforts for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He also stressed Canada's support for Israel's right for secure and recognized boundaries and the right of the Palestinians to a homeland.

While again stressing that "the elements of peace must be found and agreed on within the Middle East", Mr. Clark suggested that countries outside the region, like Canada, could help create conditions and provide encouragement to move the process forward".

Mr. Clark added that as a result of his visit he has renewed his conviction that there is a foundation on which peace can be built. "I perceived an urgent quality to the desire for peace, an urgency born out of a deeply felt concern that, unless a settlement is reached soon, the region could

Trade with Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia

(\$'000 Cdn)

Canadian exports to:	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Egypt	127 021	353 093	136 226	286 694	191 147
Israel	124 432	122 084	124 827	151 588	132 606
Jordan	16 847	23 786	12 809	10 534	5 040
Saudi Arabia	455 496	442 374	364 772	361 873	230 758
Canadian imports from:					
Egypt	6 604	2 190	98 733	73 041	30 637
Israel	51 323	39 765	55 872	81 902	93 025
Jordan	8	106	199	23	117
Saudi Arabia	2 272 750	731 331	94 044	1 429	23 768

again slide towards conflict," he said.

The visit in Israel included tours of a number of places in Jerusalem and a luncheon with Canadian businessmen. In Bethlehem, Mr. Clark met with Mayor Freij.

Talks with officials in Israel covered a number of bilateral relations including trade. Representatives in both countries are working

to increase commercial and technological links and are searching for a project where Canada and Israel might work together in international development.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. Clark and Mr. Shamir signed the Canada-Israel Air Agreement which provides for El Al flights between Toronto and Tel Aviv.

Peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East

Canada has participated in every peacekeeping mission in the Middle East since 1954, when Canadian observers first joined the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). In 1956, the prime minister, Lester B. Pearson, was the key figure in the creation of the first UN peacekeeping force, the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) in Egypt. Canada maintained a contingent of some 1 000 troops in UNEF I from 1956 until the force was withdrawn in May 1967.

After the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, UNEF II was established in the Sinai peninsula and Canada again provided 1 000 troops until its withdrawal in 1979.

Canada also contributed some 100 logistics and communications troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in 1978.

Currently, Canada participates in four peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East:

- The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization established in 1948 to supervise cease-fire and armistice agreements between Israel and surrounding Arab states.
- A contingent of some 220 personnel, based at Camp Ziouani in Israeli-occupied territory, provides logistics and communication support to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force established in 1974 to supervise the areas of separation and limitations between Syrian and Israeli forces

on the Golan Heights.

- A contingent of 515 officers and troops with the United Nations Force in Cyprus helps supervise cease-fire agreements between Greek Cypriot forces, and Turkish Cypriot forces and their Turkish allies.
- At the request of Egypt and Israel, Canada assumed operational responsibilities with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) on

March 31, 1986. The Canadian contingent with 136 personnel and nine helicopters is located with the force headquarters at El Gorah, in the northern Sinai and provides helicopter support to the MFO, including observation and verification, command and control, logistic support, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and air traffic control. The MFO was established in 1981 to monitor security provisions of the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.



Mr. Clark visits MFO headquarters in El Gorah where 136 Canadians and nine helicopters form Canada's Rotary Wing Aviation Unit that assists peace efforts in the area.