

Still in the international field, I made a point in my talks with my various hosts to stress Canada's belief in and support for the U.N. and its agencies, even if at times we have had serious cause to deplore in the latter for the introduction of political considerations into discussions of a technical nature as occurred at the recent Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) session. In our view, such political discussions distort the aims of the U.N. and its agencies and threaten to undermine their effectiveness in carrying out the specialized tasks for which they were established.

I had not intended, Ladies and Gentlemen, to go into more detail with respect to Canada's role at the United Nations. But I must say that the remarks made by the speaker who preceded me obligate me to clarify Canada's position at the United Nations.

Not so long ago I appeared before an audience made up of members of the Canada/Israel Committee and the speaker who introduced me complained about what he described as the ambiguity of Canada's voting record at the United Nations. And tonight I have the same complaint from the professor who preceded me on the platform, which is probably the best proof that I could ask for that Canada is following an even-handed and objective policy on Middle East questions at the United Nations. Because we attempt to be balanced and objective, we are bound to run into criticism -- tonight from the speaker who preceded me, two weeks ago from the Canada/Israel Committee.

Now, I am going back to the House of Commons tomorrow to resume my seat in the House, and I want to tell you that I was one of the members of the House of Commons who voted unanimously against the adoption at the United Nations of a Resolution that linked Zionism and racism. And I want to tell you that. I was the Minister of Foreign Affairs that issued the instructions to the Delegation at the United Nations that took that position, and I was the Minister that instructed the Delegation last week at the Economic and Social Council to vote against two resolutions because in my view these resolutions carried forward the same link, which is unacceptable to the Government of Canada and which is unacceptable to every member of the Canadian House of Commons. And I say to you in all sincerity, my fellow Canadians, that there is no future for mankind if we continue in these efforts, which in this case makes, in our minds, an unacceptable link between racism and Zionism.

And I regret that I have to comment upon the remarks made by the gentleman who preceded me, but I hope that from the remarks that I have made up to the present time, you will understand that Canada does have a policy and I am delighted that I have had the opportunity to clarify some of the policy aspects which I found had not been clearly indicated in the speech made before I rose.