

Whereas a minimum of cooperation is essential to any progress in the international field, we have witnessed lately excessive confrontation on issues that were not related to the subject matter of conferences. The ingredients are well-known: racialism in Southern Africa, the Middle East conflict, producer-consumer relations and the full range of economic development problems subsumed under calls for a "New World Economic Order". Canada believes that these are very real and difficult problems which must be dealt with urgently, in the appropriate international institutions, before they poison the body politic of the United Nations family; and let there be no doubt that we consider it necessary and desirable that political factors take their proper place even in the most technical of conferences. But they must meet some test of relevance, and in recent U.N. conferences this has clearly not been the case.

Honourable Members are well aware that in respect of the Toronto Congress on Crime Prevention, which was to take place next September, one of these issues had already become paramount. It arose from the resolution adopted in November 1974 by the General Assembly, with Canada dissenting, inviting the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to attend its sessions as a permanent observer and, in a similar capacity, conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly or other organs of the U.N. Accordingly, the Government of Canada was informed by the United Nations Secretariat