

know, we have declared it to be for many, many years. But I am also resigned to the very distinct possibility that, on this or that particular issue, there are bound to be those in Canada who will disagree with the position taken by Canada. I can only tell you that, during my period as Secretary of State for External Affairs, no such decisions, no such votes, no declarations, will be made or taken by us without the most careful analysis and scrutiny of resolutions or actions to ensure that they are consistent with the basic principles that I outlined a few moments ago.

There is much, much more that I could say about the Middle East, but once again time constraints make it impossible. But, if Canada, as has happened on two previous occasions, can be in the Security Council and can use its influence to move towards the resolution of the problems of the Middle East, then this will be one of the most satisfying things, I think, not only for those of us who have the active responsibility at a given moment but also for all Canadians, who have had such an intense interest in that area for so many reasons for so many years.

I suppose one of the other questions that is going to occupy us in the Security Council in the United Nations will be the question of the membership in the United Nations of some additional countries. Over the years there has been, of course, a growth in membership to the point where there are not very many countries that are not now participants, but there are some, one of them, of course, being the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It is Canada's position that Vietnam should be entitled to and should be given membership in the United Nations. We say this because our commitment has been for years to universality. We do not believe that the United Nations ought to be a club made up only of countries that think alike; in point of fact, exclusions, as we have seen in the past on a number of occasions, simply result in a heightening of tensions in particular regions of the world or between different ideologies of the world. That is why, for instance, for the same reason of universality, we should argue for the retention of South Africa as a member, and we should argue for the retention of Israel as a member.

And so we should also, and shall, at the Security Council continue to press for the admission of those countries that are still outside the UN, even though, I repeat, we may not be even remotely close to agreeing with their ideology or some of their basic political principles. The point is that the UN will only work if we are prepared, within that forum, to listen to views and to argue with views with which we disagree, rather than spend our time in a confined club patting each other on the back and telling each other what good boys we are.