

encouraging the disparate Palestinian community to moderate its positions and to be ready to work out practical accommodations with Israel requires being in contact with PLO officials, since that organization clearly speaks for most Palestinians. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that Canadian government contacts with the PLO continue at their present level and frequency. (Page 68).

5. *Golan Heights*

Along with East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights ranks as perhaps the most difficult question in the Arab-Israeli dispute. In the Committee's opinion, it would seem that the problem of the future of the Golan Heights should be left to a later round of negotiations. Until some progress has been made and more confidence prevails between those who are party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the differences over the Golan could block all attempts to resolve disputes in the area. (Pages 68 and 69).

6. *Lebanon*

The current problems of reconciliation and reconstruction facing Lebanon are immense. Given the intense internal rivalries, the central Lebanese government must move extremely carefully. Tragically, an end to the turmoil in Lebanon is not yet in sight. For the many Canadians of Lebanese origin, the process of restoring peace and unity to Lebanon is of major importance. The Committee is appalled by recent events in Lebanon and is watching developments with compassion and concern. It supports any efforts the Canadian government is able to make to promote Lebanon's territorial integrity. (Page 73).

7. *Iran and Iraq*

During this study Committee members were concerned as to what constructive role Canada could play, if any, in the Iran-Iraq situation. The Canadian government has appealed to both parties to end the conflict and urged them to make use of the good offices of the Secretary-General. Canada has strongly supported his mediation efforts in this war. After hearing testimony on this subject, the Committee concluded that, beyond this, there was little that Canada could do. (Page 77).

8. *Canadian Peacekeeping in the Middle East*

In general terms, the Committee has concluded that Canada's contributions to peacekeeping operations in the Middle East have helped to contain conflict in the area. It is a role for which Canada is well qualified, and represents an effective use of its armed forces. The Committee therefore believes that Canada should consider seriously future requests to contribute units to peacekeeping forces which may be established in the region. (Page 86).

a) UNTSO: The United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization

The Committee recommends that the government support any international effort to strengthen UNTSO so that it could, on relatively quick notice, be available to monitor arrangements which might be made to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. UNTSO has been effective in observing points of confrontation in the Middle East and has helped to maintain channels of communication. It is not costly and its long experience and continuous mandate could be a major advantage in terms of speed and effectiveness of response. (Page 82).

b) UNDOF: The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

This UN peacekeeping operation on the Golan Heights impressed Committee members as being effective, properly planned and executed. Both Israel and Syria appear to agree that UNDOF is the best solution to the problem until a settlement of the area is reached. The Committee recommends that Canada continue to contribute to UNDOF. (Page 83).

c) UNIFIL: The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Unless the Lebanese government were to acquire greater stability and authority following the Israeli withdrawal, the Committee doubts that UNIFIL will be able to carry out its mandate effectively. In these circumstances, the Committee considers that the Canadian government should be extremely cautious about agreeing to contribute to any expanded role for UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. (Page 85).

d) MFO Sinai: The Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai

The Committee agrees with the government's acceptance of the invitation to Canada by Egypt and Israel to participate in the Sinai peacekeeping force. The Committee considers, however, that the government should take care that it obtains a clearly stipulated and accepted fixed term for its commitment in this force. Canada would not wish to find itself again in the same situation as it is in Cyprus and where it would be faced with difficulties and controversies if it were to decide to terminate Canada's peacekeeping participation there. (Page 86).

9. *Diplomatic Representation*

a) Syria is the one major country in the area with no resident Canadian diplomatic officers. The Committee recommends that the government establish an embassy in Damascus with a resident Ambassador. (Page 89).