

Those negotiations may lead to an independent state, or to a federation with an existing state, or to some other result. We do not prejudge the results of those negotiations, but affirm the rights of Palestinians to participate fully and directly in that process.

I indicated to my Israeli counterpart, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, when we met in Paris in January, that the Government of Canada strongly supports the early launching of a process of negotiations, which would require the participation of the PLO as the principal representative of the Palestinians.

The Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Yves Fortier, will meet with a representative of the PLO Mission to the United Nations. Other contacts will take place elsewhere as appropriate as part of the ongoing pursuit of Canadian foreign policy objectives.

We take these actions in the expectation that they will encourage the PLO to continue on the course indicated by its recent statements and actions and with the hope that ultimately this will help bring security to Israel.