

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### "SEARCHING FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE"

Address by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on the occasion of the Negev Dinner offered by the Montreal Jewish Community in honour of Mr. L.D. Crestohl, M.P., Monday, April 8, 1957

It was with great pleasure that I accepted your kind invitation to be here this evening. For more than one reason I have looked forward to the opportunity to address this distinguished audience. It is always gratifying to speak to a gathering of Canadians having a high sense of social responsibility and a devotion to the public good. It is a pleasure, too, to be present on an occasion when honour is being done to one of my colleagues in the House of Commons, and to be able to add my own word of tribute to those already addressed to Mr. Crestohl.

Many of you here this evening regard yourselves, I am sure, as active partners in the constructive tasks which the Government and people of Israel have set themselves. You have given much of your strength and your means, first to make it possible for an independent Jewish state to exist at all, secondly, to help consolidate Israel's hold on life, and, in the third place, to help it to achieve a status in the international community in consonance with the dignity of the Jewish people. Your first loyalty to your own country has not been prejudiced by loyal support for Israel.

It was exactly ten years ago, in April, 1947, that the question of the future of Palestine was referred to the United Nations General Assembly by the Government of the United Kingdom. From that time until the present it has been the constant aim of the Canadian Government with, I think, the hearty support of the people of Canada, both to assist and support the new state which emerged, and to find some way of helping to bring peace and happiness and an opportunity for uninterrupted constructive activity and harmonious living to the people of the Middle East.