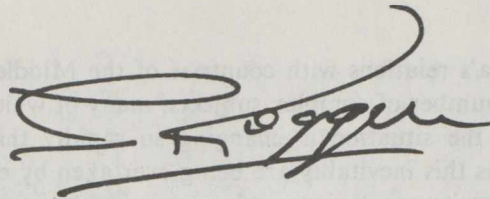


their support and service, in particular Patrick Savoie, the Clerk of the Committee, Peter Dobell, director and Carol Seaborn, staff assistant, both of the Parliamentary Centre.



George C. van Roggen
Chairman
June 18, 1985

The report deals with Canada's trade with the Middle East and North Africa and touches on a number of other areas involving from day to day in fact the most detailed comments in a report such as this meeting. However, the Committee believes that its conclusions and recommendations are of continuing validity.

The Committee held its hearings in Ottawa and a sub-committee held five hearings in the region. The sub-committee's report was presented at the Committee's proceedings of 7 March 1984.

The report deals with a range of issues including Canada's trade with the Middle East, Canada's trade and representation with respect to the steel, iron, and aluminium industries, Lebanon and the West Bank, and the impact of the Arab-boycott dispute.

In undertaking this examination, the Committee was conscious that a function of such a study is to broaden understanding and create dialogue among Canadians. This was the approach taken by the Committee in its previous study which examined the possibilities for a bilateral trade agreement with the Arab States. In this case, the Committee has sought to explore the impact of the Arab-boycott on the international programs which are at the heart of the dispute in the area.

Since the issues are complex and the outcome critically important to the people of the area, the Committee moved slowly, through discussion, to reach a balanced conclusion. While in a Committee report all members will not agree with every particular, in the Committee's view however, this report represents a balanced statement of the issues and presents a reasoned assessment of Canada's interests in the region.

I am grateful to all members of the Committee and especially to the Deputy Chairman, Senator Heath Macpherson who chaired a number of important meetings in my absence and whose deep knowledge of this area of the world was most generously shared. The courtesy and understanding of all members of the Committee, one to another, made it possible for me to find ways to resolve differences of opinion and to reach common ground. In addition, I wish to thank the staff for

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

George C. van Roggen
Chairman