

be required, still less the extent of reconstruction which will face the people of Nigeria when peace, we hope, is mercifully and quickly restored. We do know that these problems will call for international co-operation and assistance on a substantial scale. Canada stands ready to play a full part.

THE MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, continuing tension and sporadic fighting between Israel and its neighbours sow the seeds of future conflict. There is a danger that the escalation of violence in the Middle East could involve outside powers and thus constitute a grave threat to world peace. Yet we are all conscious that the time and effort devoted to settle this dispute since the end of the fighting in June 1967 has led to no improvement in the situation. Agreement by the Security Council last November to certain basic provisions and principles for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East was an important achievement. But principles are of little use unless the parties accept in good faith the duty of implementing them fully and effectively.

The Canadian government reaffirms its support for Security Council resolution 242 of 22 November, 1967, in all its parts, and pays tribute to the patient and tenacious efforts of the special representative of the Secretary General, Ambassador Jarring, to assist the parties. We give him our full support, and call upon the parties to use his good offices and earnestly seek agreement on a peaceful and accepted settlement based on the provisions and principles of resolution 242. This is particularly important in the days which lie ahead when Foreign ministers are in New York and readily available to consult.

ARAB REFUGEES

The events of June 1967 tragically aggravated the problem of the Palestine refugees. I am sure I speak for all member countries when I pay tribute to the work of the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and his staff. In extremely difficult conditions, the agency, in conjunction with the host governments, has carried out its responsibilities with perseverance, skill and compassion. In recognition of the vital need for UNWRA to continue its work, my government during the current fiscal year maintained its voluntary pledge of cash and food aid valued at 1.2 million dollars and, in addition, contributed to the agency the equivalent of \$650,000 in special donations.

The agency can assist in supplying the refugees with the basic requirements for subsistence, and it has done notable work in providing education for thousands of refugee children. For the future, however, what is required is a just settlement which would offer the refugees the opportunity of living in peace and dignity. A solution to the refugee problem will only be feasible in the context of an agreed settlement between the Arab states and Israel. Meanwhile, pending the attainment of such a settlement, this urgent humanitarian problem remains. My government, therefore, calls upon all member states to demonstrate the reality of their concern for the refugees by supporting, tangibly and generously, the operations of UNRWA.

VIET NAM

It is deeply discouraging that no tangible progress has been made towards a negotiated settlement in Viet Nam. The high hopes universally aroused by the initiation of the talks in Paris reflected the overwhelming desire of mankind to see this agonizing and destructive conflict brought to an end.

While it is appropriate that this body should be concerned with the situation in Viet Nam, responsibility rests in the final analysis with the two sides to the conflict. Canada has already expressed the view that the bombing of North Viet Nam should stop. This is an essential first step. But a political settlement requires a general military de-escalation, and North Viet Nam must demonstrate its willingness to contribute to this process.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

We are often reminded that the United Nations is a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. One of the main threats to such harmony is racial discrimination and the effects it has on international stability. The divisions amongst the membership which these questions provoke must not be allowed to lead to a breakdown in communication between us. The objective is clear. It is to ensure that the majority of the peoples of the countries of southern Africa will no longer be deprived of their rightful place in the political, economic and social development of their countries.

The main issues are the future of South West Africa and Rhodesia, the question of apartheid in South Africa, and the refusal of the government of Portugal to accept the overwhelming opinion of this assembly in favour of self determination for the peoples