

affairs. It seemed imperative, moreover, after the annihilation of six million Jews in various countries in Europe, that arrangements should be made in at least one country in the world for the Jewish people to be definitely freed from the limitations and the fears imposed by minority status. Only in Palestine were the Jews willing and able to undertake the heavy responsibility of establishing an independent Jewish state. It was not only Jews who were convinced that salvation lay in the principles of self-liberation and self-help. That concept had now gained a wider acceptance and we had to do something about it.

It was also, I think, the general belief of those who voted in the United Nations General Assembly in favour of the principle of creating an independent Jewish state that the Jews of Israel would one day be able to establish friendly relations with the Arab world, although time would obviously be required to achieve the necessary mutual adjustments. All men of good will must have been glad to note, therefore, that already, only four and a half years after the adoption of the partition resolution, there are indications that areas of wide agreement may soon be established between Israel and its immediate neighbours. These may be mere straws, but I hope that they show from which quarter the currents of air are blowing.

Co-operation between Arab Governments and the Government of Israel has taken place in the past month, spontaneously and as a matter of course, in the face of a threatened plague of locusts. Fresh agreements have been reached within the past few weeks for the prevention and control of illegal crossing of Israel's borders in either direction. Similarly, when ships of Israel or Lebanon are in distress, each may now take refuge in the territorial waters of the other state and then proceed on their way without hindrance. These agreements were reached without the publicity that seems always to accompany bad news and represent the sort of quiet adjustment to a changed situation out of which stable conditions often grow.

Speculation, as you know, has been rife within recent months regarding the possibility of a negotiated settlement of political problems between Israel and its neighbours. Of this speculation Mr. Sharett has said, "The mere appearance of such reports in an atmosphere charged with hostility is a hopeful omen". I have no intention of discussing here, and it would be improper for me to discuss here, the problems which would require consideration before such a peace settlement could be achieved. There is one point, however, which I think I might make now because Canadians interested in this question may feel they have some personal responsibilities in relation to it.

There can be no doubt that Israel requires a background of peace against which to work out to its fullest development the national life of its own people. The Prime Minister of Israel has often said so, and emphatically. There is also no doubt that the Arab position, as defined during the last Session of the United Nations General Assembly, represented, as Arab spokesmen themselves have pointed out, the concession of much which they had refused to concede before, particularly when they offered to sit down with representatives of Israel to discuss a peace settlement if, as a starting-point for the discussions, Israel would reconsider certain past recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly, some of which the Arabs had formerly rejected out of hand.