

Now I am not particularly concerned whether the talks are held in Geneva or somewhere else, but it is my intention to call upon all of the parties -- in my official role -- to resume those talks as quickly as possible, and to commit Canada's best efforts to getting them going in a climate that is best designed to bring about a permanent solution. None of us is so naive as to think that that solution will come easily. But it will not come at all unless there are a commitment and a willingness by all the parties to get together in a realistic fashion and face the complexities of bringing about a permanent peace.

So far as Canada is concerned, our position, with regard to the State of Israel is clear, unequivocal. We subscribe to the United Nations resolutions that ensure Israel the right to survival behind safe and secure boundaries, and there is no intention, no thought, of changing that position. Furthermore, we believe that a settlement in the Middle East must not only ensure the letter of that United Nations resolution but the spirit of it as well. And, of course, we're equally determined, as I think every reasonable person is, to see that the Palestinians, the Palestinian people, are also relieved of the terrible crushing burden so many of them have had to suffer for so many years. On humanitarian grounds alone this is surely an essential element in any Middle East solution that must be found. And, once again, it is not enough, it seems to me, to argue that it is complicated and complex and that we had best get along with a little patchwork here and a little patchwork there -- that there are those hundreds of thousands of people who have rights, which again have been recognized by the world community, and that we must see that as an essential part of the equation and of the solution.

In the interim, of course, Canada has been one of the major contributors to the United Nations' organization for refugees in the Middle East, and only two or three weeks ago I was able to give to the Secretary-General of that organization an additional amount of \$300,000 for this year for that purpose. But all of these are what I have called patchwork solutions. I have no doubt that, as members of the United Nations, and particularly of the Security Council, in this coming year, we in Canada, as with South Africa but perhaps with more visibility, will have to make some very difficult decisions relating to the Middle East. And I have no doubt either that there will be many who will say, as has already been said, that, by joining the Security Council, in some way or the other Canada's policy towards the Middle East is going to change in some direction, there is going to be some perceptible shift. Let me reassure you on that point. Our policy will continue to be as I have outlined it and, as you who are students -- at least of international affairs -- will