

stating that the temporary moving of the embassy staff to a Beirut suburb was because, "although a cease-fire prevails at the moment and the area around the chancery has been relatively free from attacks so far, conditions in the city have deteriorated substantially over the past week. The increased danger along with difficult living conditions and increasing interruptions in communications prompted the decision which was taken on the basis of reports from the ambassador and elsewhere."

The ambassador, Théodore Arcand, had been critical of the devastation and large-scale killing by Israeli forces in Lebanon. Mr. MacGuigan told reporters the same day that Mr. Arcand had been doing a great service for his country and to some extent, for the cause of world peace. According to the *Globe and Mail*, "Although the External Affairs minister was cautious when asked whether he would support some of the strong language used by Mr. Arcand to describe the Israeli military campaign against the Palestinians, he carefully did not disavow the conduct of the ambassador."

During the first week of August, Israel had rejected a US call to leave Beirut and re-establish a strict ceasefire. Instead, Israeli forces increased their "fierce onslaught" in West Beirut (*Globe and Mail*, August 5). On August 4, before Parliament recessed for two months, Mr. MacGuigan stated the government's position regarding those recent actions. He told the House of Commons:

Yesterday we made a démarche to the Israeli government protesting the bombardment up to that point of West Beirut and saying that the process should be seen as reflecting a deep and growing concern in the Canadian Parliament and public over the impact upon civilians of the Israeli bombardment of Beirut. I want to say today, having yesterday brought a message of restraint for Israel to the US Secretary of State, and having stated that position publicly there, that the new bombardment today is an extraordinarily unfavourable development for peace. It is hard to understand how the Government of Israel thinks it can advance the cause of peace in this direction, at a time when negotiations appear to be taking hold. We are very disturbed by it. We protest in the strongest way against this resumption of hostilities and we hope it will cease forthwith.

Mr. MacGuigan's statement followed what was described (*Globe and Mail*, August 5) as a "testy exchange in the Commons in which a handful of Liberal backbenchers, from ridings with large Jewish populations, twice refused unanimous consent to motions criticizing the Israeli bombardments of Beirut, even though these motions appeared to have the tacit approval of front benchers." Mr. MacGuigan later told reporters that Canada was "serving notice to the Israeli's and the rest of the world" that the present actions of Israel were incomprehensible for a country in search of peace. He also said that Canada was not considering sanctions against Israel unless they were part of a collective action.

Later in August, Mr. Arcand returned to Canada before taking up his new post as Canadian Ambassador to Hungary. At this time, it was reported that the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Yeshayahu Anug, had informed the External Affairs Department in Ottawa, that Israel had not been pleased with Mr. Arcand's outspoken comments in Beirut.

Mr. Anug reportedly said that Mr. Arcand had overstepped his mandate in making comments on matters having nothing to do with his role as Canada's representative in Lebanon (*Globe and Mail*, August 14). In various interviews, Mr. Arcand defended his stand to the press. "I felt my job was to call it as I saw it . . . I lived in Beirut, and saw the devastation that was caused by the bombing attacks," he told reporters (*The Citizen*, August 13).

In mid-August, a settlement was reached whereby Palestinian Liberation Organization members would be escorted out of West Beirut by an international peacekeeping force. During the next month, when relative peace in the area was reported, Mr. MacGuigan made a statement to the press about Canada's role in a Middle East settlement. He said Canada did not rule out support for an independent Palestinian state in the West bank and Gaza Strip, but suggested Canada would prefer a more moderate force than the PLO to represent Palestinians. Canada's role in the settlement, he said, would be to insist on secure boundaries for Israel, and at the same time, to insist on the rights of the Palestinian people (*Globe and Mail*, September 10).

Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel was assassinated on September 14, after the departure of a multilateral peacekeeping force from Beirut. Israeli soldiers remained in Beirut despite international criticism, and had, by extension, taken on some responsibility for the maintenance of peace in that city. The world was shocked when it was reported that over the weekend following Mr. Gemayel's assassination, Lebanese Christian militiamen, said to be from a Falangist group, had entered two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and massacred hundreds of people there. The outrage against the Lebanese extremists was extended to Israel after that country was widely accused of complicity by not preventing the brutal murders. Allan MacEachen addressed the situation in his first statement since being sworn-in as External Affairs Minister on September 20. He expressed the shock, outrage and revulsion felt by Canadians toward the crimes. In addition, he said, "We deplore Israel's unjustified occupation of West Beirut. Upsetting the carefully worked-out ceasefire agreements could only have a destabilizing effect on an already tense situation."

Further Canadian reaction was reported in the following days. Demonstrations by various groups were held, including one in Toronto September 27 with a reported five thousand Moslems in attendance (*Globe and Mail*, September 27). In Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress called for an independent Israeli inquiry into the slaughter. A news release from the group said that, "Canadian Jewry is shocked and deeply grieved by the wanton slaughter of innocents in the Palestinian camps of Shatila and Sabra." A cross-Canada Jewish vigil arranged by another group took place September 27 to show solemn respect for the Palestinian children, women and men who had been massacred.

Canada's position regarding the Middle East crisis was the subject of a speech by the Minister of State (External Relations), to the 14th Congress of the Centre Québécois de Relations Internationales on September 30. Mr. De Bané reviewed recent developments and clarified Canada's position in this context. In the previous weeks, new initiatives had been announced by US President Re-