

be able to resolve the extraordinary challenges that face you.

[*Translation*]

Mr. President, it is our wish and our earnest hope that peace will come to Israel and its neighbours. I hope that following your visit to this country you and your fellow citizens will realize that Canadians nurture a loyal and constant friendship for Israel and also that they are very much concerned about the safety and well-being of your country.

[*English*]

We have long insisted that Israel's existence must be maintained and must be secured. We are not, because after all we are not living in a dream world, unaware of the situation of others who aspire to dignity and self-respect.

We have done things in Canada that were not believed to be possible. We have created a nation of peoples from everywhere in the world, including our native peoples. We have not been perfect, and the ideal we are following is far from being perfected, but we have come this far by

patience, and some competence, but, basically, Sir, as a consequence of the deep regard for the rights of individuals and their traditions.

This approach, however imperfect, has created with all our faults one of the best countries in the world. It is nonsense to say that Canadians are dull. I am tired of such shallow mutterings. If we are dull, I do not know what I have to do every day in Question Period. But, Mr. President, we have always tried to move to a moderate position. Moderation and a very deep respect for each other has created and I believe will maintain our country.

We say to you, Sir, that perhaps our almost instinctive sense of moderation within a framework of a viable democracy may give you and your colleagues some sense of hope as you face challenges that are more difficult than ours. Mr. President, we are your friends, and because we care for you and your children, our wish, and our expectation, is that you will resolve your difficulties with wisdom, generosity, and compassion.

[*Translation*]

Many, many thanks, Mr. President for your visit and your friendship! *Shalom!*

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