GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

No. 57/11   REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

Statement made in the United Nations General
Assembly February 2, by Mr. L.B. Pearson,
Chairman of the Canadian Delegation.

We have before us, as members know, two draft resolutions: one on the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces and one on arrangements for peace and security in the area to follow such withdrawal.

The Canadian Delegation would have preferred these two draft resolutions to be separate parts of a single draft resolution which could be voted upon separately. Our reason for that view is a simple one. We think that these two matters are interconnected, and what we do about the second will help or hinder our efforts to bring about effective action in regard to the first -- withdrawal. This inter-relationship exists, in our view, not because it will assist Israel in achieving any objective of national policy, but because it will affect the chances of achieving our own objective of peace and security in the area. And that, I take it, is the objective of the Assembly. We do not expect the second draft resolution to result in anything that would not have been desirable if Israeli military action had not taken place.

There is in our minds no question of reward or approval. We do expect a satisfactory second draft resolution to result in the kind of United Nations action that will prevent military action in the future, and we look at this second draft resolution from that point of view, as well as from the point of view of the effect which it will have on the achievement of Israel withdrawal.

I recognize the force of the reasons that made one draft resolution impossible of acceptance by the necessary majority in this Assembly. I hope that others will realize the force of the argument that the views expressed on the second draft resolution and, even more important, on the meaning of that draft resolution, are bound to influence our feeling about the first.