

possible for some, under the pretext of supporting the Palestinian cause, to preach and practise violence and terrorism. These actions cannot be justified - they are beyond the pale. Canadians profoundly abhor these methods and we will continue to struggle against terrorism. We cannot ignore however that the resolution of the Palestinian problem, and especially that people's legitimate right to a homeland, is essential if justice is to be attained and regional stability achieved.

Continuing tension has made the Middle East a focal point for East-West rivalries. These have led to a widespread and well founded concern that the region could provide the spark that would ignite a general conflagration. Mr. President, this is no idle concern. As you know, the Secretary General has noted in his last report, "there is a grave danger that if the present deadlock in the peace process is allowed to persist, major hostilities will break out again in the area".

Mr. President, the Middle East impasse should not and cannot be allowed to continue. There must be reconciliation between Israelis and Arabs. The path has been illuminated by those courageous Egyptian and Israeli leaders who nine years ago forsook the ways of war and embraced the principle of exchanging land for peace. We must exert all our efforts to assist their successors and others in the region who are prepared to take risks for peace.

Those who accept both Israel's right to live within secure and recognized boundaries and the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to a homeland within a clearly defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, must be supported. The stakes are too high for members of this Assembly to be influenced by old quarrels, by recollections of past injustices or by considerations of national advantage. We must deal with problems as they exist, in the here and now, seeking solutions on the basis of justice for all.

My Minister during his Middle East tour had occasion to meet with numerous Middle East leaders, both Israeli and Arab. He found in all the countries he visited a willingness among statesmen to rise above differences. He found a willingness to take the risks necessary to achieve a just and lasting peace. But peace remains sadly elusive. We must do all we can to encourage Middle East leaders to overcome the hesitations born of a generation of conflict.

My government believes that a truly just and lasting peace must be arrived at through direct negotiations between the parties themselves. We shall do all in our power and support all constructive initiatives which contribute to the achievement of that goal. We do not discount the impetus which