

The same is true with respect to the exchange of printed information. We hope our stand, along with the stand of others, will bring about that kind of exchange.

In order to translate the policy declarations, there ought to be exchanges in the educational, scientific and cultural fields without any inhibition or restraint. I am sure many Members will speak out on human rights. Among them will be those who are concerned as I am about the fate of Anatoly Shcharansky. With regard to that particular case, we have indicated to the Soviet Union — as well as in relation to others who may be under some form of detention as a result of their attempts to monitor the carrying-out of the Helsinki Act — that we consider any action taken against these people at this time could pose a serious threat to a successful outcome at Belgrade. Also, it could threaten and undermine the whole thrust toward *détente*.

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Middle East

When I was in the Middle East approximately a month ago, it was clear that there was a significant change of attitude. It had not shaped up at that time. I questioned very much, even for a few days before the decision was made, that either of the leaders genuinely felt they would be meeting in person so quickly. Yet there is no question that the yearning for peace was evident. I do not think "yearning" is too strong a word. Many have asked what we in other countries can do or ought to do at the present time. I have only one piece of advice: we should do the minimum possible to impede the principals in their very strong commitment at the present time; we must give them all the encouragement we can.

Already the hope is realized that the courage of President Sadat will be met by the generosity of Mr Begin. This is starting to come together. No one should delude himself that there are not any significant, deep-seated, almost Biblically, historical animosities and tensions that must be cast aside. Never in our recent history have the signs and the portents been so great for peace.

This is why, among other things in relation to the United Nations, I have expressed criticism about what has been happening at the United Nations in these past weeks with regard to various resolutions that serve no useful purpose in terms of what is being done at the present time, but will have a detrimental effect by dragging into this very delicately-balanced situation extraneous issues and unnecessary complications....

I hope next year we shall be able to view with considerable satisfaction that, at long last, going back perhaps 2,000 years or more, we have seen one of the great historic events of our time occur in one of the troubled parts of the world.

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...At Beaumont Hamel, the great Newfoundland cemetery, it occurred to me a short time ago, despite everything that has occurred in the period since the Second World War, this is now the thirty-third Christmas we have managed to get by without having a major global conflict. We have had all manner of tragic bush wars, and some, like Vietnam and Korea, that were massively bigger. At least we have learnt enough to move tentatively along this course towards a more lasting and permanent peace. I suppose it can be said that we should be grateful for small blessings — namely, 33