

Canada believes all countries in the region need and have a right to expect more than just another ceasefire or merely a formal end to belligerency. If this kind of peace is to be achieved, the crucial issues of territory must be solved. The only truly secure borders - those which are freely recognized by the parties on either side of them - must be determined, by negotiations, within the framework of Resolution 242. Until then, we believe that nothing should be done unilaterally or illegally to change or predetermine the status of any part of the occupied territories. We regret that such actions are still being taken without regard to their effect on the prospects for peace. It is also clear that any resolution of territorial issues, if it is indeed to bring about the lasting peace that all desire, must provide a just, humanitarian and political solution for the Palestinian Arab people by which they can live in peace without threatening the security of any country in the region. Any solution for the Palestinian Arabs must, of course, include their clear and unequivocal acceptance of Israel's permanent existence as their neighbour. During this Assembly, we should bring our weight to bear to bring about an early resumption of negotiations and not attempt to substitute empty debates or one-sided resolutions for the complicated, slow, but essential process of working out a settlement by the parties themselves.

Obviously the Middle East situation has reached a crucial stage. For all concerned these are days of opportunity. We must pray that they act wisely and with a full awareness of the awful consequences of unwise actions.

For, Mr. President, whenever there is a potential for conflict these days we must not only contemplate localized limited hostilities, as frightful as these always are. We know that each new flare-up wherever it occurs in the world is a potential threat to us all and even to world survival. We must remind those who would risk the use of arms that they are endangering more than the lives of their own people. Every weapon fired in anger is aimed, potentially, at us all. Thus we have a right and a duty to speak out; for what is at stake is in truth the peace of Canada and of every other country in the world.

Disarmament

Mr. President, because this is the simple truth, no problem is of greater concern to this Assembly than disarmament, but equally no subject has more frustrated our efforts and disappointed our peoples. Next year's Special Session can provide us with an opportunity to move towards real disarmament. Canada co-sponsored the resolution calling for the session and we will put forward specific proposals to make it a success.