

this area of the world are fully in my mind. Canada's fundamental and unalterable concern has always been to make its contribution towards a just and durable peace. We have tried to do this in a very direct way through our participation in the United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai, which is larger than that provided by any other country, and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights. If these forces can continue to provide a measure of stability between Israel and her neighbours and can help to establish and maintain a climate in which substantive negotiations can take place, Canada fully intends to maintain its contribution.

"The Government and the people of Canada supported the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, its right to exist as an independent state in the Middle East and the right of its people to live in peace within secure and re-

cognized boundaries, and that still continues as the policy of the Government of Canada. In no way has this support ever been directed against Israel's neighbours. Indeed, Canada has sought to maintain a policy of balance and objectivity in the Middle East conflict. We firmly believe that all the peoples of this region have the same right to peaceful and prosperous development behind secure boundaries.

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"I know that decisions are very difficult when the security and sovereignty of states are at issue. It is my hope that the parties concerned will continue to find the fortitude necessary to make the difficult choices which will be required if the momentum towards peace is to be built on and expanded. I recognize, Mr. Minister, as do you, that regrettable incidents such as the passage of the resolution at the United Nations equating Zionism with

racism, which Canada vigorously opposed, do little to contribute to a climate of mutual tolerance and understanding so vital in any negotiations.

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"Canada considers it vital to any lasting settlement that there be respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the Middle East. The Government of Canada remains unalterably opposed to any attempt to challenge the right of Israel to live within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threat and acts of force. At the same time it is the Canadian Government's view that the Palestinian people should be heard and participate in negotiations regarding their destiny. Indeed, my strong impression as I conclude my visit to the Middle East is that there will be no solution unless the legitimate interests of the Palestinians are met."

**Relations with Israel**

Relations between Canada and Israel have been close since the latter's foundation in 1948 by the United Nations, which Canada supported.

In 1973, some 22,000 Canadians visited Israel and close to 12,000 Israelis came to Canada. The many holy places in Israel are objects of pilgrimage for many Jewish, Christian and Moslem Canadians.

Canada has consistently upheld the

right of Israel to exist in peace behind defined and secured borders. That right has remained a basic premise of Canadian policy towards the Middle East. In a speech to the House of Commons on July 21, 1975, the Secretary of State for External Affairs not only endorsed the principle of universality in the United Nations but stated unequivocally that Canada "will resist any attempt to exclude Israel or any other country from the proceedings of UNGA". In

no way has this support been directed against Israel's neighbours. Indeed, Canada has sought to maintain a policy of balance and objectivity in the Middle East conflict.

Trade between Canada and Israel increased in 1974. In that year, Israel provided some \$24.8-million worth of imports to Canada and bought \$50.8 million of Canadian exports, which included barley, aluminium, wheat, copper, asbestos and transportation equipment.

**Canada/Poland fishing co-operation**

Polish and Canadian representatives met in Warsaw on January 19 and 20, to discuss future co-operation in fisheries.

The meeting carried forward discussions held in Ottawa in November, on a bilateral agreement on fisheries co-operation to establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Polish fleet in waters off Canada's coasts. This included expected legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management in such waters and traditional Polish fishing. Short-term arrangements regarding Polish fishing off the Pacific coast were also discussed.

The two sides agreed on the terms of

an agreement which, if approved by both governments, would permit Polish vessels to fish in the areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements.

A second agreement, if approved, would establish the short-term arrangements concerning the conduct of present Polish fishing in waters off Canada's Pacific coast. It includes provisions covering the species to be caught, quotas, closed areas and co-operative arrangements to ensure compliance with the agreement. There is also a provision relating to Polish loading and unloading operations.

**Authors from the U.S.S.R.**

The Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of External Affairs was host recently to two groups of writers from the Soviet Union who visited Canada under the General Exchanges Agreement. Grigoriy Yakovlevich Baklanov, Anatoly Andreyvich Ananyev and Freda Lurye were the official visitors under the 1974/75 program.

Both men are novelists and Mr. Ananyev is editor of the literary monthly periodical *October*. Mrs. Lurye is the consultant for Canadian literature for the Soviet Writers' Union. Their tour of Canada, from October 23 to November 12, took them across the country visiting universities and meeting prominent Canadian writers.