

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 53

October 24, 1967

MIDDLE EAST

Text of statement made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Security Council, on the Middle East Crisis, on October 24, 1967.

Mr. President, I would, of course, wish to associate myself with my colleagues in expressing admiration for the way in which you, as President of the Council, have already conducted the consultations on means of finding a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

I should also wish to express my happiness in seeing my old friend Ambassador Borch, with whom I have been associated in the past, and to say with what pleasure Canada looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Denmark in this Council.

The current outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities in the Suez area points up, as the representative of the United Kingdom has just said, the precarious nature of the cease-fire which, as we all agreed on 6 June, was only a first step. If that first step is to be followed, as it should already have been, by further steps towards a restoration of peaceful conditions in the area, then I believe that all of us in this Council would agree that the cease-fire must be scrupulously respected by both sides and that all parties must desist from all military activities in the area.

There is more than enough inflammable material in the area without adding further fuel to the flames by acrimonious exchanges of charges and countercharges and by prolonged debates. I shall therefore be very direct and very precise.

In the present circumstances, the Canadian delegation very much hopes that the Council will adopt the following measures--not necessarily together, but urgently in a series.

First, we should call upon all parties to respect scrupulously the cease-fire and to cease and desist from all military activities in the area. Second, we should ask the Secretary-General for as full information as possible from General Odd Bull both as to the measures he has taken now under the terms of the consensus adopted by the Council on 19 June 1967 for the surveillance of the cease-fire in the area--and I know that we have received several supplementary