

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 48/65

APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Statements by Mr. L. B. Pearson, Leader of the Canadian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations, before the Security Council on December 2, 1948; and by Mr. R. G. Riddell, a member of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, before the Security Council, on December 17, 1948, in Paris.

Text of Mr. Pearson's Speech, December 2, 1948.

My very few remarks on this matter will be limited strictly to the question of procedure. In this regard, we support the reference of this matter in the normal way to a special committee, where we hope it will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

However, like the representative of France, we feel that there is a relationship between this question of urgency and the questions which are now under discussion in the First Committee. We are not yet certain what resolution will come from the First Committee, what it will contain; and we do not know, therefore, what obligations it will lay upon the peoples of Palestine.

Article 4 of the Charter provides that membership in the United Nations shall be open to peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the Charter and are able and willing to carry out these obligations. But, in the case of the application which has been received from the Israeli authorities, these qualifications can, I suggest, be judged only in relation to the resolution which the General Assembly carries on the subject of Palestine. Until that resolution has been formulated, we shall not know what it will be necessary for the Israeli authorities to do in order to fulfil their obligations to the Organization, nor can we tell, of course, whether they will be able and willing to carry out these obligations. If the First Committee should adopt a resolution which makes adequate provision for a peaceful settlement in Palestine through the appointment of a conciliation commission which will work out, in consultation with those concerned, the necessary details of such a settlement, and if the Israeli authorities agree faithfully to endeavour to carry out the provisions of that resolution, then it may be possible to give speedy and sympathetic consideration to its application. If, on the other hand, the action which is taken in the First Committee proves unacceptable to the Israeli authorities, we might have to give the matter further consideration. If -- although I think this is unlikely -- for some reason or other, the First Committee is prevented from reaching any decision, while we might still wish to act on the Israeli application for membership, I nevertheless think we should wish to consider our actions in terms of that specific situation.

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