

The present situation in the Security Council does not encourage us to envisage a Canadian initiative at the U.N. at this time. This does not mean that we remain inactive. The views of the Canadian Government about the road to peace in the Middle East as I have outlined them here and in previous statements have been conveyed to all the governments concerned.

I personally made them known to the ambassadors of Arab countries represented in Ottawa and the Ambassador of Israel, as well as the Ambassador of the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister took the opportunity to speak to Chinese leaders and urge them to use their influence for peace. Our ambassadors abroad have been very active conferring with representatives of foreign governments and special instructions have been issued to our ambassadors in the Middle East to present these views to the governments of Israel, Egypt and Syria in particular. We will continue the vigorous activity. At the same time, we are maintaining our long-standing embargo on Canadian arms to parties in the Middle East conflict.

I return to what I said at the beginning about Canadian sympathies for our fellow human beings who are caught up in this tragic situation. We want to see the citizens of Israel and of all the Arab countries live out their lives in peace and security without constant fear of another war. We want the refugees to have a settled home instead of living out their existence in frustration and plotting. We therefore urge with all the emphasis we can that there be a ceasefire as soon as possible followed by immediate steps along the path toward a settlement negotiated by the parties to the conflict which is fair and just to all concerned.