

I came away with a much greater appreciation of the intractability of the problem which is facing the countries of the Middle East. I came away also with an enhanced understanding of the necessity of permitting the parties themselves to work out solutions to this particular problem. I do not believe that it is possible to impose a settlement upon the parties, that settlement has to be worked out among themselves. I realize that in this world, in international fora and elsewhere, Israel has been under attack and Israel has been pushed around, but I wanted to tell you that one country is not pushing Israel around, either at international fora, or leaning upon it to accept positions alien to its own interests - that country is Canada. I want you to bear that in mind as you assess our foreign policy. We believe and we have repeatedly stated the necessity of a settlement arrived at by the parties. In this case, of course, Israel is a party. I believe that the Prime Minister said that "we are 50 per cent of the situation". I do not know whether he used that numerical quantity but certainly that was his idea. I came away really quite distressed because I did not see any prospect for an immediate settlement. I do not see any prospect of a resumption of shuttle diplomacy, nor do I see any prospect of a resumed international conference to settle the Middle East question at the present time. That situation will undoubtedly change as the political situation in various countries changes, but I want to mention that, in approaching any ultimate settlement which is so essential to the welfare of the people of Israel and all the people of the Middle East, Canada will stand by well-established principles and well-established cornerstones of its policy.

So, may I say in conclusion, and in reviewing my discussions with the Israeli leaders and my impressions of the country, that I consider that my visit was very successful. I have gained a better understanding of the Israeli attitude on questions that concern both our countries and I had the opportunity to explain our own position in considerable detail. Obviously, both sides benefit from closer contact and I hope that the momentum established through my visit can be maintained and that we will use to good advantage the friendly and easy relationship which happily exists between Canada and Israel.