

asserted more vigorously than ever. The manner in which this presence is sought after, and the welcome given it, combined with the objectives clearly set out by the Canadian Government, can serve only to promote the development of Canada's relations with the countries of that region.

Middle Eastern Division

The responsibilities of this Division involve the strengthening of Canada's relations with the Middle Eastern area, including Iran, Israel, the Arab states, Libya, Sudan and the Arabian Peninsula. Canada maintains diplomatic relations with nine countries in this area, and has resident missions in four capitals. Egypt, Iran, Israel and Lebanon have resident missions in Ottawa, while five other countries have diplomatic missions resident in Washington accredited to Canada.

Peace in the Middle East continued to be a preoccupation of the Canadian Government in 1971. The Canadian Government continued to express to the parties involved in the conflict the hope that a peaceful and acceptable settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute could be achieved through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967. Canada also maintained its support for the mission of Ambassador Jarring, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, to help promote a settlement. It continued to support the relief work of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and in 1971 the Canadian contribution to this organization amounted to \$1,350,000 in both cash and food commodities.

Relations between Canada and Iran have been expanding steadily. Prime Minister Trudeau made a brief stop-over in Tehran in January during his Asian tour. In June, the Empress of Iran visited Canada as a prelude to the celebrations in Canada of the twenty-five hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire. Her Imperial Majesty visited both Ottawa and Montreal, where she officiated at the special ceremonies of the Iranian pavilion at "Terre des Hommes."

In October, Governor-General and Mrs. Michener joined heads of state and other dignitaries for the magnificent celebrations at Persepolis. While in Iran, the Governor-General presented two fully-equipped ambulances to Iran as a gift from the Government and people of Canada, signifying the friendly and expanding relations between the two countries.

As a result of a Canada-Israel civil air agreement signed in 1970, regular air-service between Canada and Israel was inaugurated in April 1971. A similar agreement is now under negotiation with Lebanon.

Three Persian Gulf states -- Bahrein, Oman and Qatar -- became members of the United Nations during the twenty-sixth General Assembly session, and Canada welcomed their entrance into the world body.