

Our debates and resolutions serve as an expression of opinion of the international community and that, of course, is important. But, at this moment, what is even more important, is for us to encourage and allow the parties concerned to pursue the dialogue upon which they have embarked. Now that we are well into the debate, we hope that the statements which we will hear will be positive and that any resolutions which are proposed will reflect not only the respective views of the member states but will take into account the recent events in the Middle East.

The most recent developments have, in our view, placed the question concerning the Middle East in a new light. The Canadian House of Commons has unanimously commended President Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel for their courage and positive initiative in beginning a direct dialogue. It is our sincere hope that this historic event will serve as the impetus necessary to achieve at last a just and lasting peace. A new atmosphere appears to have emerged and the psychological barrier which has existed for so long seems to have been broken by the leaders of Egypt and Israel. We hope the dialogue will be expanded to include Israel's other neighbours and representatives of the Palestinian people. The Canadian Government believes that the member states of the United Nations have a moral and political responsibility to encourage the continuation and broadening of the dialogue which took place last weekend in Jerusalem so that comprehensive negotiations leading to a final peace settlement can get under way as soon as possible in a constructive atmosphere.

#### 8. The Question of Cyprus

Canada, which has contributed troops to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) ever since its establishment in 1964, remains concerned that the presence of UNFICYP has not led to significant progress towards achieving a political solution to the problems of Cyprus. Canada has also been giving support to the special appeal of the Secretary-General for new or increased contributions to the UNFICYP account to help reduce the increasing deficit. While urging the Secretary-General to continue his "good offices" role in continuing intercommunal talks in Cyprus, Canada recognizes that meaningful progress in these negotiations will not be possible until the Turkish-Cypriots demonstrate their willingness to make territorial concessions and the Greek-Cypriots their willingness to discuss new constitutional arrangements. On November 8, 1977, Mr. William H. Barton, the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, gave expression to these views during the debate on Cyprus in Plenary.

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