

*The Address—Mr. Wenman*

hostilities anywhere on this planet. The cause of peace is not only a responsibility of the federal government, it is a privilege.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada recognizes the state of Israel without qualification or reservation and regards its continued existence as right and beyond any question. As one of the few remaining democracies in the world, Israel deserves recognition and support from all those states mutually committed to this basic common ideal. A just settlement must recognize Israel's legitimate concern for security and support Israel's determination to have defensible borders.

Further, demilitarized lines or zones supervised by credible neutral forces such as the United Nations peacekeeping force may have to be established. Such lines or zones may or may not initially conform to legal, permanent and recognized boundaries but might rather reflect the geographic-political realities of the area. While in the future the appearance of ground-to-ground missiles, supersonic fighter-bombers and other sophisticated instruments of modern warfare may in part cancel out the emphasis of strategic depth and topographical barriers, overall security will best be assured through bilateral and multilateral non-aggression pacts backed and guaranteed by the super-powers. Current military capacity and strategy, however, attaches considerable importance to limited territorial concessions.

On the other hand, we must also recognize the existence of the Palestinians and support the continuing desire of the Palestinians to develop the kind of social, political and economic status usually found within the security of a full or associate state status. Such sovereign or associate-state status would establish the apparatus of statehood which would, in turn, see the despair of the Palestinian people diminish and their creativity and responsibility increase. The legitimate grievances and aspirations of the Palestinians must be determined, recognized and resolved.

In actively promoting peace, there are three principles from which Canada must not depart. First, while we can understand the frustrations which have led people to resort to violence and terrorism; we cannot condone it. Such activities—whether in the form of terrorism, sabotage, or open aggression—are unacceptable from any source. Second, equally, we decry any exploitation of people or prejudice directed against any racial or ethnic group; the manipulation by some countries of the United Nations, and the threats which accompany the Arab boycott must all be resisted. Third, we must continue to insist that the Palestinians and the Arab states recognize Israel's right to exist, and at the same time we must continue to express concern regarding Israel's establishment of permanent or semi-permanent settlements in occupied territory.

Almost all the prime movers in the Middle East have expressed the hope that 1977 will see real progress toward peace, and, more specifically, that the Geneva conference will reconvene later this year. Visiting MP's of the Progressive Conservative special committee on the Middle East returned with strong feelings of optimism that 1977 can be an important year, yielding considerable progress toward a settlement in the Middle East.

[Mr. Wenman.]

In every country except Iraq, there was a climate of hopefulness that a course of action leading toward a peaceful settlement, if it is ever to be found, would be best initiated and activated in 1977. Even rejectionist front Iraq, while continuing to support the PLO and stockpile arms, seems to be pursuing a wait and see role by not speaking against peace initiatives by other member states of the Arab league.

The economic burden of maintaining massive modern military machines is weighing heavily on both the Arab states and Israel as a tragic waste of both human and financial resources. While massive arms purchases from both the western world and U.S.S.R. may serve the function of recycling oil dollars and balancing trade deficits, surely the transfer of technology and improved physical and social conditions could provide a more productive and positive vehicle to accomplish the same objective. Tremendous economic opportunities in the field of technological capacity transfer exist in the Middle East for Canadian enterprise and these have scarcely been touched. There are massive capital surpluses accumulating in the Middle East and substantial production facility slowdowns and unemployment in Canada. In view of the current economic situation in Canada, why hasn't our government been more aggressive and successful in bringing the two together?

Beyond diplomatic rhetoric and political grandstanding in traditional world forums and conferences, calm and rational threads of compromise are beginning to come to light. Cautious statements of potential compromise, even when viewed cynically because of their multivested motivations, seem worthy of further investigation and support as the seeds of a preliminary settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.

Recognizing the interests of all men in the cause of peace, Canada should remain open to the possibility of being a conduit for peace, ready and willing to offer any assistance to bring about a settlement. Canada should therefore be willing to maintain or, if requested, expand its highly respected and competent peace-keeping role in the Middle East.

Although not unanimous, the spirit of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations have received broad general acceptance and should, therefore, in their original form be the basis of the framework upon which to build a lasting and just settlement in the Middle East. 1977 has become a time most appropriate and conducive for the reconvening of the Geneva convention. Canada should therefore pursue this objective with an aggressive thrust in all international forums, through all diplomatic channels and by all means bilaterally and multilaterally available to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson) and more important through the vehicle of parliamentary committee and parliament itself.

Since Palestinians must be heard and seen to participate in discussions affecting their future, we must call for mutual recognition. The PLO must recognize Israel's permanent right to exist and Israel must recognize that the Palestinians have a right to political self-expression and some form of territorial sovereignty.