

Reporter: Did the Cabinet evolve any position on the PLO entry into Canada?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes. I would like to make it clear that notwithstanding the decision of the Government to postpone until a more propitious time this Fifth Congress on Crime, members of the PLO other than those who are members of known terrorist sub-groups or have themselves been involved in terrorist acts will be admitted to Canada by Minister's permit for attendance at U.N. conferences or on invitation by reputable Canadian organizations. That is our policy on the admission of members of the PLO. It is precisely the same policy that was announced in the House some weeks ago by Mr. Andras, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and I was hoping that he would have had an opportunity to make that policy statement in the House today but because it is part of this panorama, I think it ought to be stated here. For more details, I hope you will go to him.

Reporter: Mr. MacEachen, are you prepared to lead some sort of initiative at the U.N. to remove the PLO as an official observer?

Mr. MacEachen: No. I've no intention of tackling what will prove to be a totally fruitless endeavour.

Reporter: Do you think the observers maybe shouldn't attend, those that don't represent full states? I mean, are you differentiating between the General Assembly and technical conferences . . . ?

Mr. MacEachen: No, I haven't made that statement at all. I've made the opposite statement in the House.

Reporter: Do you not see any danger, though, of the (controversy) surrounding the postponement of the conference in Toronto spilling over to Vancouver? Would the PLO, for example, not be observers at that conference as well?