

continuance of deeply felt differences between Israel and her neighbours is a threat to the peace of the world.

It is only through the maintenance of peace by the interposition of an international force that the process of negotiations between Israel and her neighbours will be made possible, and in turn it is only through such negotiations that a settlement of the deeply divided issues facing Israel and her neighbours can be resolved.

We think it appropriate that it should be the United Nations which acts in this matter. We all know that the United Nations is imperfect and that it can be no better than the decisions of its members. Many people have become disillusioned with the United Nations, but we believe that the present crisis has shown once again that the United Nations is indispensable. Anything that strengthens the United Nations is of vast importance to the very existence of a peaceful world.

We know that previous peacekeeping efforts have sometimes been attended by frustration rather than by the settlement of basic disputes. It is often forgotten that without the intervention of these peacekeeping forces bloody wars might have broken out or would have been continued. One illustration is Cyprus.

● (1420)

The conflict between Israel and her neighbours is so deepseated that we do not believe the mere existence of a peacekeeping force will be an adequate guarantee of peace, although it will aid in the creation of a situation in which peace is at least possible.

For these reasons, and because of Canada's experience, ability and knowledge in respect of the important logistics contribution we are asked to make, we believe Canada can make an effective contribution to such a peacekeeping force and we approve of the Canadian contribution. We do not do so without deep anxiety and a recognition that the existence of such a force cannot by itself guarantee a lasting peace, but we believe it can contribute to it. It would be entirely inconsistent, in our view, with Canada's reputation as a good member of the world community to refuse to accept the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations, speaking in this instance on behalf of the world and in the interests of world peace.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, since I represent a constituency in the province of Quebec, I hope you will allow me to comment briefly on yesterday's provincial elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hope that the hon. member will be able to keep his comments for another time. I believe that at this time his comments and those of all other hon. members should pertain to the statement made by the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. I admit that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe took the liberty of saying a sentence or two in reply to the reactions of others. The hon. member for Abitibi will certainly understand that it would be preferable if we could keep to the statement made by the minister, at least for the moment.

*Privilege, Mr. O'Connor*

**Mr. Laprise:** I thank you for your comments, Mr. Speaker. As Quebec is still in Confederation I thought I could make such a comment.

Mr. Speaker, as the two previous speakers opposite, I received the statement of the Secretary of State at 2.10, precisely when he had finished reading it.

However, it was difficult for me to study it thoroughly, but on behalf of my party I approve the decision taken by the Canadian government to support the dispatch of a force to supervise the truce in the Middle East, because we feel that this decision is valid. However, I remain quite pessimistic considering the requirements laid by the Security Council of the UN to the belligerents. In the statements made at the Security Council and during the numerous debates which followed and which I heard at the UN, I felt sorry that no mention was made of the heart of the problem existing in the Middle East since the establishment of the State of Israel, that is the Palestinian refugees. Unfortunately, it seems that this essential point was forgotten over there. In the declaration handed out by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and according to resolution 340, there is mention of the decision taken in the night of October 21 to 22, I believe, and of resolution 338 regarding the ceasefire and the return to the boundaries set on that date.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the events of 1967 are forgotten. I think that the war of 1967 was the prime cause of the resumption of hostilities in October 1973. Once again the recommendation of resolution 242 is forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I think that even a force of 7,000 fully-armed men, with all possible communications equipment, would find it difficult to maintain peace in this part of the world because the basic cause is still present.

I am nevertheless happy, Mr. Speaker, that the United Nations have stated that Canada is considered as a possible participant in the force and that it is the only country with the military means and experience. So, I think this is something which should not necessarily cause us to brag about: our armed forces have experience not only in the Middle East but also in the international field. They are known everywhere for their efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion we should go far beyond the Security Council's recommendations if we really want to restore peace in that area and that is what everybody wants.

We approve such a decision and we would like very much to do much more in this line than what is now being done.

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[English]

#### PRIVILEGE

MR. O'CONNOR—BUILDING OF CINDER BLOCK WALL  
ACROSS ENTRANCE TO OFFICE

**Mr. Terry O'Connor (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. On returning to my office after lunch today I was confronted by a crew of workmen constructing a cinder block wall across the entrance to my office in the Confederation building. The workmen could offer no explanation except that they had tendered the job