

I am announcing today the results of our review of recent developments in the Middle East relating to the Palestinian issue. We have come to certain conclusions in this matter, in accordance with the objectives which have guided successive Canadian governments over the years. The fundamental principles have long been

- support for the security, well-being and rights of Israel as a legitimate, independent state in the Middle East;
- support for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement based on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories as enunciated in Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967;
- recognition that for there to be a just peace, the legitimate rights of the Palestinians must be realized, including their right to play a full part in determining their future;
- insistence that for the PLO to play a role in Middle East peace negotiations, it must accept Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized boundaries.

Over the past year and a half, developments in the Middle East have altered longstanding assumptions about the nature of the peace process. The intifada in the occupied territories has demonstrated that Palestinian nationalism is a reality that must be taken into account. King Hussein's withdrawal from Jordan's former responsibilities for the West Bank acknowledged this fact and served notice that Jordan would no longer speak for the Palestinians.