

Several European countries are engaged in actively exploring this concept. After the war ends, they may propose the creation of a CSCM, a Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean, which would also include the Persian Gulf region for this purpose. This is an ambitious project, and Canada is carefully monitoring its development.

In the same spirit, when visited recently by my colleague, Dr. Meguid, the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, we agreed on the importance of beginning immediately a study of post-war security structures. This would include a consideration of possible mechanisms to incorporate into a regional security structure. Border guarantees, a peaceful mechanism for the resolution of disputes, and the establishment of confidence-building measures would form the bases for this structure. Such a mechanism would also allow the discussion of non-military matters, as in the case of the CSCE's second and third baskets.

Such a global approach to security matters, based on the establishment of genuine dialogue among the various regional partners, would allow such issues as the development of democratic institutions in the region to be addressed. But if they are to have any chance at all of succeeding, efforts to achieve greater regional security and stability must courageously address the very roots of the problems that exist in the Middle East. These root causes are well known.

2) THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT

The thorniest issue involves relations between Israel and the Arab countries. After decades of conflict, the build-up of hatred and misunderstanding has been enormous.

No regional security plan can expect to succeed unless it is firmly determined to make progress toward a comprehensive, lasting, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict, including the Palestinian question. Such a negotiated settlement must be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council. In this regard, even before the Gulf war, Canada let it be known that it favoured holding an international conference. While we should not exclude other options, a properly structured conference with reasonable chances of success could indeed be useful and contribute to the peace process.