

that only by acting in advance of the conclusion of the Conference did Canada and countries who took similar action enhance the United Nations and the undoubted value of the Conference. This lesson should, and I hope will, lend new urgency to the important work of the Conference that remains to be completed. We have taken ten years to come this far and the gains will be dissipated by a series of unilateral actions unless a comprehensive agreed international regime comes into force very soon.

Peace and Security - Southern Africa

It should be self-evident but sometimes is not, Mr. President, that all of our painfully slow progress towards a more just and well ordered society rests on the fragile assumption that we can create and preserve a peaceful world. No argument should be necessary in defence of that proposition. Yet we continue to witness new outbreaks of violence and to hear from leaders genuinely convinced that the only path to their objectives leads across the battlefield. This belief is prevalent at present in parts of Southern Africa.

Soon we will be discussing the most recent plan for the attainment of majority rule in Rhodesia. Canada fully supports the plan not only because we believe it provides the basis for a fair and equitable solution but also because we reject totally the alternative of further blood-shed. There must be no lessening of our resolve to see the end of the present illegal minority Rhodesian regime and for that reason we must redouble our efforts and our commitment to peaceful means. Otherwise, whatever the eventual outcome it will have about it the smell of failure and the sad realization that good can only be achieved through death and destruction.

Middle East

In the Middle East the issues are even more complex and the dangers to world security proportionately greater. All of us are hoping that present initiatives and negotiations will prove successful and today, as in the past, Canada urges all concerned to recognize fully their awesome responsibility to make every effort, explore every avenue that can lead to a peaceful and permanent solution to long-standing differences.

Canada remains committed to the framework for peace embodied in United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. Our support for Israel's right to exist as defined by those resolutions is firm and unequivocal. We deplore and will continue to do so, all efforts within this Assembly and elsewhere, to attribute patently false motives to Israel or to diminish its status and rights within the United Nations or as a legitimate member of the world community.