

enlightening to me because he was of the view that Syria was a major element in the area. He certainly had the opinion that at some point, somehow, a way must be found to talk to Syria.

I should tell you that I found the President of Israel to be quite a terrific person. I'd never met him before and maybe my appreciation of him increased when I discovered that he was a Gaelic speaker. He was brought up in Ireland and spent a good part of his life there and acquired a facility in the Gaelic language. But you don't meet very many statesmen in the world today who speak Gaelic and here I was with the President of Israel, both of us Gaelic speakers. We exchanged some views in Gaelic. He in his Irish Gaelic and I in my Scottish Gaelic. I should read a report of that part of the conversation, which of course was not written by me. It stated that "by the end of meeting the President of Israel and the Deputy Prime Minister had established excellent rapport. The President recalled serving in World War II with Canadians and his visits to Canada. Then the President and Deputy Prime Minister tried out their Gaelic on each other". The report goes on to say the results were mixed, as Irish and Scottish versions are apparently not that close. "Fortunately, the rest of the meeting had taken place in English". That's just a bit of a side comment about what I regarded as a very interesting discussion with the President, not only on the problems of Syria but the problems of the region as a whole.

I don't think that there is any doubt in any of our minds that the restoration of stability and peace in Lebanon, and the alleviation of the anxieties of its neighbours, require a national political reconciliation, equitable in the eyes of all the factions involved, and accepted by all of them. Only thus can we realistically hope for the emergence of a stable and broadly based government able to exert effective control over the whole of Lebanese territory. We do not yet know what results may follow from the latest round of political talks which has just taken place in Lausanne, but in any event there is so far no assurance that even a reasonable minimum of stability in Lebanon - the essential first step in securing its national sovereignty and territorial integrity - is in sight.

I have spoken of Lebanon not only because its intractable troubles are of concern to you and to me as Canadians, but also because what has been happening there over the past several years reflects and underlines some of the fundamental elements of the broader Arab-Israeli