

UNRWA debate on the annual resolutions dealing with: the right of return; assistance to persons displaced in the 1967 war; UNRWA financing; the renewal of the UNRWA mandate; and scholarships for the higher education of Palestinians. However, on the resolution relating to refugee housing, Canada, to register its disapproval of Israel's punitive destruction of Palestinian refugee housing, changed its vote from an abstention to one of support.

During the debate on Israeli Practices, Canada's stance on the six recurring resolutions which make up that item was similar to its 1980 stance. The Israeli government's decision on December 14 to annex the Golan Heights caused Canada in the plenary session, with a number of other UN members, to change its committee abstention to support for the resolution as demonstration of its opposition to the Israeli action. Canadian disapproval was also manifest in its support of a paragraph within an omnibus resolution under the item Middle East Situation condemning Israel's policies and practices in the Golan Heights. Because of the inclusion of other elements unacceptable to it, Canada could not support a new resolution on this subject under this item.

Of the five annual resolutions under the item Question of Palestine, which focused on such issues as the status of Jerusalem, the Camp David Accords and the Special UN Secretariat Unit on Palestinian Rights, Canada did not shift from the positions it took in 1980. The one new resolution under this item, the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, did not receive Canadian support since it was unlikely that the Conference would encourage the concerned parties to negotiate a settlement of their differences, given its terms of reference.

There were two other major items on the Middle East that were introduced in the Assembly for the first time: Israel's Attack on the Iraqi Nuclear Reactor and the Mediterranean/Dead Sea Canal. On the former, while supporting the condemnation of Israel's action, Canada abstained on the resolution because it went beyond condemnation and infringed upon the prerogatives of the Security Council in attempting to determine that the Israeli action constituted a threat to international peace and security under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Canada voted in favour of the resolution criticizing Israel's unilateral plan to build a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea because of the adverse affects it would have on Jordan.

Afghanistan and Cambodia

In the absence of progress toward the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, despite efforts by representatives of the UN Secretary-General to promote political solutions, the ministerial meeting of non-aligned countries in New Delhi in February adopted fairly strong positions on both issues, which were welcomed in the West. In July the United Nations convened an international conference on Cambodia, where Canada joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in calling for negotiations on the total withdrawal of foreign