

of accomplishment and service will be a legacy upon which the United Nations will be able to draw in the future. This record will be far more important in the verdict of history than the current differences of opinion over the circumstances of its withdrawal.

I do not claim that these facts give Canada any special insight into the Palestine problem or any special qualifications for solving it. They do help to explain, however, why the Canadian people and the Canadian Government have followed recent events with anxiety. We have no substantial interests to further. We have no claims to make other than those which arise from a deep and legitimate concern for peace and justice in the Middle East, indeed in the world, and for the good name and reputation of the United Nations, our membership in which has been largely instrumental in involving us in these problems.

The issues are too grave and the potential consequences of our actions are too significant for partisan controversy about the subject of our debate. I would hope that this special session will contribute to the search for a solution in the Middle East. This hope is shared, I know, by other countries, many of whom are represented here by their heads of government and foreign ministers. The opportunity is present not only for debate but for consultations and negotiations. One of the purposes of our Organization is to act as a centre "for harmonizing the actions of nations." If this is our common purpose then and only then can we be hopeful that diplomacy will take the measure of propaganda and that the common desire for peace will prevail.

Canada, as a member of the Security Council, joined Denmark in calling the Council together on May 24th to deal with the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. It is a sad misfortune that the Council was not able to act at that time. Nevertheless, it remains seized of the situation and I note in this respect the references to the Council in the draft resolutions introduced by the Soviet Union and the United States. We contributed to the decisions of the Security Council calling for a cease-fire. The failure of a particular resolution should not have led, in our judgement, to the interruption of the Council's work. We had ourselves put forward a resolution relating to the implementation of the cease-fire and were in the process of revising this resolution, in consultation with others, when this special session was requested. In our view these consultations should continue. The Security Council should deal with the resolutions before it. As we have often been reminded, the Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. Here in this Assembly I would hope that we could establish some guidelines to assist the Council when it resumes its work.