

I hope it does comfort you and reassure you, ladies and gentlemen, as it does me, that the Parliament of Canada, the Members of the House of Commons and the Members of the Senate, in a unanimously adopted resolution, condemned in unequivocal terms the adoption of this resolution at the United Nations. I believe that Canada -the democratically-elected House of Commons and the Senate of Canada - were the only legislative bodies in the world that took this particular action. The same ugly subject has come up in technical meetings of the United Nations. I want to refer to some of the developments that take place at the specialized and technical agencies of the United Nations; the debates at these specialized agencies are not free from extraneous political considerations, the introduction of which make the functioning of these agencies very difficult indeed. To our regret and despite our opposition, the blatantly gratuitous and provocative issue of linking Zionism and racism was introduced in December in a UNESCO debate on a proposed international declaration on the mass media. Canada argued forcefully that the introduction of elements which are firmly opposed by a significant number of delegations made a successful outcome of the deliberations impossible, and also the introduction of such matters would not enhance the reputation of UNESCO in the international community. When our voice, based on practical considerations, when our voice spoken from principle, was not listened to, when what we said was disregarded, we, in company with other like-minded nations withdrew from the debate and left the meeting in order to express our opposition in the best way we knew at that time to the introduction of such matters into the United Nations. And my colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, raised this subject in his speech, certainly with my concurrence, and quoted words which I uttered before another audience on this same subject of UNESCO. Now we are faced with a Conference to take place in Canada later this year, a major international conference in which Canada has a great interest and a great commitment and in which the world itself has a great commitment. We will do our utmost to keep this conference on the rails, to keep the discussion upon the major subjects that are before the conference, but if extraneous political questions are introduced, the Canadian Government will take its responsibility in this particular occasion as it has taken its responsibility amidst other challenges, some of which I have described today.

Now, just one more point: I am preventing myself, Rabbi, from getting to the question period but I do want to make one comment about my political conclusion as a result of my visit to the Middle East particularly with respect to the possibility of an early settlement.