

programs, peacekeeping contributions and immigration links. Inevitably the Committee gave much of its attention to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was partly because it seemed in the national self-interest to try to assess to what extent this conflict was likely to spread or to erupt into a major conflagration and what Canada's posture should be relative to it. It was also because Committee members became increasingly aware of the deep concern about the Arab-Israeli dispute which was growing beyond the confines of the Middle East. Therefore it has been impossible in a study of this kind not to give prominence to this issue. However, the Committee has not presumed to offer any new peace proposals to the countries involved. Rather it has concentrated on questions on which the Canadian government might have to take a position as well as on Canada's bilateral interests with the main countries of the region. Finally, the growth of Canadian links, mainly in trade, with the francophone countries of North Africa were examined.

In carrying out this study, the Committee has heard testimony from 63 witnesses in Ottawa. (A list of witnesses is attached in Appendix A to the report.) A Sub-committee consisting of Senators van Roggen (Chairman), Buckwold, Hicks, Lapointe, Macquarrie, Murray, and Roblin was formed to visit the Middle East for an on-site study of problems in the area*. During the month of November 1983, the Sub-committee visited Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Israel. The Sub-committee's report on its visit was submitted to the full Committee in February, 1984 and the report itself was annexed to the Committee proceedings for March 7, 1984. (Number 1, Second Session of the 32nd Parliament).

* Unfortunately on the day of departure, the Chairman, Senator van Roggen was taken ill and obliged to go to hospital. Senator Hicks was chosen as Chairman in his place.