

**Canada urges new start to Middle East peace negotiations**

*Robert Stanbury, Canadian representative at the United Nations General Assembly, stated on December 6 that "with renewed hopes for Lebanon" and therefore for the whole of the Middle East, the time seemed opportune "for the reactivation of comprehensive negotiations towards a final settlement." Mr. Stanbury's address to the thirty-first session of UNGA follows:*

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In the view of the Canadian Government, it is of the utmost urgency that a new start be made. There exists now agreement on the framework for negotiations: first, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 have obtained general agreement. Secondly, all parties have agreed that the Palestinians should be heard and participate in any discussion affecting their future. What, then, are the remaining obstacles? We know that they are procedural in form.

It would, of course, be naive to deny that the existing procedural difficulties cloak deeply-felt aspirations and apprehensions. But this fact simply confirms the necessity for particular efforts by the key parties to clear away procedural obstacles and permit negotiations to be resumed. We all know that the most important obstacles are at the present time: the difficulty of arranging for the effective representation of the Palestinian people in the discussions and negotiations that will play a central role in determining their future, on the one hand; on the other,

the need for unequivocal acceptance by all parties of the existence of the State of Israel as a sovereign and independent state in the Middle East.

**Obstacles not insurmountable**

The task of overcoming these obstacles ought not to be beyond human ingenuity. It will require imagination, flexibility, determination. It will demand the wisdom, on the part of all concerned, to refrain from making it impossible to begin constructive negotiations by insisting on procedural considerations that would tend to predetermine their conclusions.

For negotiations to be successful they must begin, and they must begin with clear indications from both sides of the will to make necessary concessions. To save, as "bargaining points" for use at a later stage, concessions that both sides know to be inevitable, can only make it impossible for the bargaining ever to get started. There is no basis for serious negotiations without a clear understanding of two points: the reality of Israel as an independent state consistent with Security

Council Resolution 242 and the need for the Palestinian people to participate in the process of developing an appropriate structure for their political self-expression within a suitable territorial framework.

Except for Palestinian participation, Security Council Resolution 242 provides all the necessary elements of a basis for negotiations. Israel must withdraw from territories occupied in 1967, but only as a part of a process that establishes secure and recognized borders for all states in the region and that provides effective recognition for the right of all these states, including Israel, to live in peace. Resolution 242 was a landmark of general agreement on the essential framework for a just and lasting peace. It should be neither tampered with nor distorted. It should be used as the basis for moving ahead toward a negotiated solution.

The Geneva Conference, while not the only conceivable forum for negotiations, is the only one in being. Rather than try to reconstruct it, we urge the parties to make use of it with all the urgency the situation demands.

Let the parties and the international community, therefore, do what is necessary in order to permit the launching of the negotiating process and to seize now an opportunity which, if it is not grasped, will surely pass just as surely to be followed by the outbreak of renewed hostilities and destruction which it is our common responsibility to prevent.

**Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta sign hearing-loss pact**

The Manitoba provincial government has authorized the provincial Workers' Compensation Board to enter into an agreement with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan regarding compensation for workers who suffer noise-induced hearing loss.

Manitoba Labour Minister Russ Paulley, the minister responsible for the board, said the agreement would cover compensation and rehabilitation on a provincially-shared basis, between the three workers' compensation boards. This would be on a proportionate basis, according to the exposure in each province.

The minister said the claims to workers' compensation boards regarding hearing loss because of excessive

noise in the work-place were much like those made due to silicosis-induced conditions, for which Manitoba has agreements with most provinces.

He said, like silicosis, the noise which contributes to the hearing loss could have occurred in any or each of the three provinces included in the agreement and the responsibility of each involved board to make contributions to the victims with damaged hearing is recognized.

Under the new agreement the worker would file a claim with only one compensation board and would be paid by that board, although the other boards involved would contribute according to the rate of exposure in each participating province.

**Contribution to Lebanon relief**

Canada has remitted \$450,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross in aid of victims of the Lebanese conflict, announced Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, last month.

The Canadian International Development Agency grant brings the total of Canadian contributions for relief in Lebanon to \$750,000.

According to the most conservative estimates, over 50,000 people have been killed in the conflict in the last 18 months. Some 250,000 have been severely wounded and nearly a million have fled.

Canada's contributions to the Committee have been made through the Canadian Red Cross Society.