

endeavour. Anyone who has visited Israel, as I did in 1977, cannot but be tremendously impressed with the enthusiasm of its people and at the tremendous achievements seen since 1948. Over these years, Canada and Israel have developed a deep friendship based on the common values of respect for human dignity and the commitment to a better world. These links have been reinforced and supplemented by a whole range of private and government ties in every sphere of common endeavour. Israel has a special place in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

Four major wars in the Middle East have taught us, however, how dangerous a state of continual unresolved tension can be, both for the welfare of the area and the peace of the world as a whole. Israel's struggle for survival has been the central fact of its thirty-year existence. Throughout their modern history, Israelis have known, with the people of Arab nations, the loss and anguish of war. The conflict between Israel and the Arab world has been the most intractable regional dispute in recent history, preventing Israelis and Arabs alike from devoting the full weight of their very considerable human and natural talents to the welfare of their peoples. Even more than its effect on the area, the conflict has often seemed the most likely gateway to global conflict. Each time the level and sophistication of military power on both sides has been more immense, with all the potential for destruction and suffering that entails.