

FINAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
RESPECTING THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Since the submission of my interim report in October of last year on the location of the Canadian Embassy in Israel, I have continued to examine the other areas of my mandate. To facilitate my work, in addition to my first trip to the Middle East which preceded my recommendation on the Embassy, I have visited Algeria, Morocco, France, Italy, The Vatican and the United States as well as United Nations Headquarters in New York and several of the Canadian provinces. I have also met the representatives of other Arab governments whose countries time did not permit me to visit. With the benefit of these wider consultations I am now reporting on the fuller range of subjects falling within my terms of reference concerning the Middle East and North Africa.

For purposes of my work I have defined the Middle East and North Africa as being limited to the Arab states and Israel because it was in the context of Canada's relations with these countries that my appointment was made. I do not believe, however, that the Arab-Israeli dispute exists in a vacuum. Events in Afghanistan and Iran, for example, clearly make a solution of this dispute still more urgent.

I have divided this final report into two main sections according to the remaining areas of my mandate. The first deals with the peace process between Israel and the Arab states, and the second with reciprocal relations between Canada and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa in the political, economic, technological and cultural areas, including the implications for Canada of the Arab boycott of Israel.

In discussing the Middle East conflict I have tried to assess the attitudes, concerns and approaches of the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute in order to suggest how Canada might best be able to contribute to a peace settlement based on mutual understanding and compromise. I have approached this task along three lines: (1) the attitude Canada might take to basic issues in the dispute, (2) the material contributions that we can make from our own resources to such activities as peacekeeping, refugee relief and economic development and (3) methods by which we can retain and enhance our influence in bringing the parties closer together.