

with other interested countries on the ground rules governing technical discussions in U.N. arenas. Either independently or in cooperation with others, we will attempt to formulate and seek support for an effective resolution in the General Assembly on this question.

I also intend to accept during the autumn outstanding invitations to visit a number of countries in the Middle East. These visits, which the Government already considered most useful for strengthening our relations with this region of the world, have taken a new urgency following the difficulties we encountered in holding the U.N. Congress on Crime Prevention. The House can be assured that I will take this opportunity to solicit the views of my hosts on these difficulties and seek their support for the United Nations as a universal forum and an effective international instrument.

Honourable Members should note that our decision to seek the postponement of the Congress, for the reasons stated, is consistent with the policy of the Government on the Middle East. We will continue to cultivate, as we have done in the past, friendly and cooperative relations with all states in the region and to attach great importance to the development of these relations. Likewise, Canada has tried in the past to maintain a balanced and objective approach to the Middle East conflict and will continue to do so. We have always supported and defended the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace with its neighbours,