

the UN plan. But I must point out that any addition must be in complete agreement with the basic principles of the resolution. In our view, there is therefore no question of amending the resolution, but rather of ensuring its implementation. The addition of new elements with the agreement of all parties involved should aim not at weakening it, but at giving it full effect.

I want to point out to our African friends that Canada has only one purpose in this matter, that is, independence for Namibia. We have nothing to gain and, indeed, much to lose as long as Namibia is occupied illegally by South Africa. We have indicated to the latter that only an international solution can be a lasting one and that only an international solution will bring stability and security to the region. The resolution of the Namibian issue is as much in the interest of South Africa as of the other parties involved. Canada will continue to work for a negotiated solution, but in the final analysis, South Africa will have to make the decision. It was not ready to proceed last January at the Geneva conference. I hope that on reflection it will agree to a direction and a plan which has the approval of the entire world community.

Middle East

The Middle East is an area of the Third World which is of vital and direct interest to the West as a whole. It is the focus of the convergent interests of North/South and East/West relationships. The economic development of a large part of the world is intimately linked to the Middle East and the issues of concern to this area should be given priority by all international organizations. This government's policy is, whenever possible, to facilitate understanding and promote dialogue. Tension in the Middle East is multidimensional and its most important aspect is the Arab-Israeli crisis for which a long-term solution has to be found. Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate rights and concerns which must be taken into account. Among other things there is the security of Israel and its right to be readily accepted by its neighbours. But the world must also recognize the rights of the Palestinians and these include their right to a homeland, within a clearly defined territory, and by that I mean the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

There are other regions of the world where tension and instability prevail, like Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. Canada must recognize that development in those areas and elsewhere is getting even harder to control especially if East/West confrontations spill over into the Third World. We ask that Third World countries be sheltered from these rivalries and we support their legitimate desire to return to a true spirit of non-alignment. We also ask that the Soviet Union respect such non-alignment.

Canada/U.S. relations

I have mentioned the link between peace and security on the one hand, and sovereignty and independence on the other. But our relationship with the United States could be considered a special case of the exercise of the latter value. Indeed, this relationship is perhaps Canada's greatest foreign policy challenge. The reasons go beyond the sheer magnitude of the relationship, with \$90 billion in trade last year and its enormously complex network of personal and business links. The more profound reason why Canada/U.S. relations are so important has much to do with how we as Canadians want to shape our destiny.

In many ways, Canada and the U.S. are similar societies. We are both liberal demo-