

the Palestinians, including the need to find a means for their political self-expression.

During 1976, Canada was faced once again, both in UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and in the United Nations General Assembly, with a large number of resolutions concerning Israel and the Middle East. Wishing, wherever possible, to express a clear stand on such resolutions, Canada — with respect to 18 major resolutions on the Middle East in various UN bodies — voted in favour of five, opposed eight and abstained on five. This desire to adopt a clear position was similarly manifest in Canada's votes on all three resolutions proposed at the 1976 UNESCO session, as well as in the positions it took at the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. Of particular note at the General Assembly was Canada's opposition to the resolution on the "Question of Palestine" on the ground that this resolution ran counter to the accepted framework for Middle East peace negotiations, its support for the resolution deploring Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories, and its affirmative position on the Egyptian resolution urging the early reconvening of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East. On each of these issues, Canada explained its opposition to any attempt to hinder, prejudice or bypass negotiations for a settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which, in the Canadian view, continued to serve as the only generally-accepted framework for Middle East negotiations.

While Canada was not directly involved in the events in Lebanon, considerable effort was made to contribute to meeting the needs it created. Immigration facilities were extended to permit victims of the fighting to emigrate to Canada, and the Canadian Government also contributed to the program of the International Committee of the Red Cross for alleviating the sufferings of the population. The Lebanese hostilities necessitated the withdrawal of the Canadian Embassy from Beirut and its establishment, on a temporary basis, in Amman

(where it was already accredited). In Amman, the Embassy retained accreditation to both Lebanon and Syria.

Canada continued to provide the largest national contingent to the United Nations peacekeeping forces observing maintenance of the cease-fire in the Sinai Peninsula and on the Golan Heights.