

Against this backdrop of profound change in the Middle East over these last two years, Canada's longstanding commitment to Israel's right of survival as an independent state in the area remains firm. It follows from this, as well as from our adherence to all the principles embodied in Security Council Resolution 242, that we remain opposed to any attempt to challenge the right of Israel or the right of any other state in the region to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threat and acts of force. Canada's earnest wish is to see all the peoples of the Middle East live out their lives in peace and security without constant fear of further war. A just and durable settlement of Arab-Israeli differences must be arrived at by the parties themselves through negotiations, and not by a resort to violence. Terrorist activities of the kind that occurred at the Savoy Hotel in Tel Aviv last month must only be condemned.

From what I have said tonight, I think it is apparent that, despite greatly altered circumstances, the fundamental principles of Canada's policy on the Middle East remain unchanged. While the Government is prepared to evaluate all developments in a rapidly-evolving situation in terms of their impact on the search for a peaceful settlement, it firmly maintains that such developments must not be allowed in any way to prejudice the continued existence of Israel. What is important for Canada now, as it has always been in the past, is that Israel and its neighbours continue the process towards a negotiated peace, freely arrived at and acceptable to all. No effort should be spared, and no opportunity missed, in pursuit of this objective, which, when achieved, would allow Israel, free from present constraints, and, in a climate of independence and confidence, to concentrate on the task it has always set for itself -- the promotion of the social, cultural and economic development of its people.

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