

Middle East peace negotiations and to complete my discussions with top Israeli leaders I was received for an interview with the President himself.

I mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, my interest in the new types of communities that the Israelis have created, and my hosts had kindly arranged for a trip to the northern part of the country and I made stops at the Kibbutz Gonen and the cooperative village of Kfar Yuval, and I also made a tour of the Hula Valley. I found this trip a unique experience and it is certainly essential for anyone who wishes to gain some insight into the strength of the Israeli character and personality. I was impressed by the results that the settlers have achieved by good planning, determination, hard work and a more than ordinary amount of courage. These settlements are a tribute to the spirit of the Israeli pioneers and I am grateful that I had an opportunity to see them at work and to hear their views. It was my conclusion on the personal level that my understanding of the people had increased immeasurably by these personal contacts and my tour of the Hula Valley gave me a comprehension hitherto not experienced of the great importance to Israel of the border question and an appropriate and satisfactory settlement of the border question.

May I turn just for a moment Mr. Chairman, because you mentioned it, and because it is very much on my mind, to Canada's support of Israel's legitimate rights at the United Nations and elsewhere.

I believe an examination of the Canadian record reveals that the positions we take are based on principles and that we adopt a firm and positive posture in defence of those principles and in defence of fair play. I am concerned that our foreign policy with respect to the Middle East will be based upon principles that are supportable by you and by the Canadian people. In the implementation of these principles, there are obvious difficulties at times, as Rabbi Plaut pointed out. However, he did mention the most notorious case, in which it was possible for Canada to take a clear stand in support of fundamental principles. Last fall during the 30th Session of the U.N., we opposed the particular resolution that had linked racism with Zionism; we opposed it through our votes and our pronouncements at the United Nations, we opposed it in many capitals of the world in diplomatic representation, but I also opposed it when I was in the Middle East and in my visit to the various Arab countries. In fact, in a statement made in Jordan during my visit to the Middle East, I described this resolution as troublesome, unhelpful, and destructive, and I was prepared to say the same words that had been stated in the House of Commons, in the Arab world itself - and I believe that is a measure of the strength of our convictions. Not only did we regard that resolution with all the abhorrence that I have described, but we also felt that it had tainted two related resolutions concerning the program of the U.N. Decade against Racism and the holding of the U.N. Conference on Racism to take place in 1978. We voted also against these two resolutions, because they were stands on principle.