

with developing countries, and with the countries of southern Africa. The lack of parliamentary study of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa has stood out.

Canadian awareness of the countries of the Middle East has increased in recent years. Most Canadians supported the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel in the region. A sense of horror at the Holocaust, respect for the progressive and vigorous character of the Israeli state, and admiration for the quality of Israeli democracy in a region of non-democratic governments led the great majority of Canadians to sympathize with Israelis in their struggle to maintain their new state against numerically superior adversaries, some of whom used military force, engaged in terrorist activities, and employed extremist rhetoric. The fact that Israel was situated in the Holy Land probably reinforced this focus. An observation by Mr. Pearson in his biography well demonstrates this phenomenon:

I must admit that I became emotionally involved in a very special way [in the Partition and Suez questions] because we were dealing with the Holy Land—the land of my Sunday school lessons. At one stage of my life, I knew far more about the geography of Palestine than I did about the geography of Canada. I could tell you all the towns from Dan to Beersheba, but certainly not all from Victoria to Halifax. I think that in the back of my mind, I felt that I was concerning myself with something very close to my early life and religious background. . . . It made the dispute much more real in my mind than, for instance, Korea. I do not recall ever getting very worked up about Korea when I went to Sunday school.

In recent decades a succession of subsequent events has gradually raised the level of Canadian awareness of the Middle East and its problems. These include the Suez crisis of 1956, the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 and the renewal of this war in October 1973. Canadian peacekeeping troops first became involved in the area in 1954 and have continued to be present since that time although not now in large numbers. Perhaps the principal development which focussed the average Canadian's attention closely on the area was the sudden, unilateral escalation of petroleum prices in 1973 following the creation of OPEC and the decision of the Arab countries to use the 'oil weapon' in support of their struggle with Israel. The Arab states' summit meeting in Algiers in November 1973 ended with a resolution on Arab oil policy declaring that the conference had "decided to continue the use of oil as a weapon until the withdrawal from occupied Arab lands is realized and the rights of the Palestine people are assured". Lists were drawn up classifying outside states into friendly countries, neutral countries and "countries supporting the enemy", i.e., Israel. Consumers and the business community alike in the industrialized countries were quickly and directly affected by the impact of the Arab oil embargo and production cutbacks. Then, a few years later, just as the industrialized countries were adjusting to the first oil shock, the drama of the Iranian revolution unfolded resulting in even higher oil prices and the hostage incident at the United States Embassy in which Canada became involved.

The Committee received an order of reference from the Senate directing it "to examine and report upon Canada's relations with countries of the Middle East and North Africa". Accordingly, the Committee's study has encompassed a general examination of Canada's trade and energy relations, its development assistance