

When we turn to opportunities for economic co-operation, oil always comes to mind and it is important. But Canada's dependence on Middle East oil is far less than that of other countries. There are many other sides to our economic relationship with the Arab World and the opportunities are considerable. In the past year, for example, our exports to the Middle East have shot forward by more than 50%. They include a high proportion of manufactured goods and technical services. We have also been highly successful in engineering, consulting and planning. The potential for more trade exists in such areas as transportation and communications especially in the key markets of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt and Libya. We are developing these prospects.

Unfortunately, it has been international conflict which has brought Canada, as a peacekeeper, even closer to the countries of the Middle East over the years.

In the on-going dispute between Israel and the Arab States, there are limits to what a country like Canada can do. All the same, Canada has made a major contribution to peacekeeping. No other country has been so deeply and continuously involved. This involvement began with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in 1948, then the United Nation Emergency Force in the Sinai in 1956. If we include Cyprus, we can also mention the United Nations Force in Cyprus in 1964. We can also refer to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon in 1978. Canada's peacekeepers are still in the area today in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights and in UNTSO.

Our presence in the Middle East has brought Canadians close to the tragedy of the Palestinian people. Over the years, there has been a consistent effort by Canada to meet the most urgent needs of the refugees who have been uprooted by war and forced to live in camps. We understand the need for help and we have responded.

Canada has been one of the largest donors to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East and UNRWA's efforts to meet the needs of the Arab Palestinian refugees. Over the years we have contributed more than \$64 million. In 1981, we increased our contribution by 30% to over \$7 million and we have pledged \$8.1 million in 1982, subject to Parliamentary approval.