

The Palestine Liberation Organization

Canada recognizes the PLO as the principal representative of the Palestinian people. Because Canada has never enforced a ban on all contacts, Canadian officials have met with PLO representatives on various occasions. Previous restrictions on the level of Canadian contacts with the PLO were lifted on March 30, 1989.

Palestinian Autonomy

Canada fully supports the Israel-PLO Peace Agreement signed on September 13, 1993. Canada does not recognize the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as announced in Algiers, in November 1988. Canada's position, however, does not exclude the creation of a Palestinian state if that were decided by the parties through negotiations.

Support for Fair-minded Peace Initiatives

Canada firmly supports constructive peace initiatives, such as the Camp David Accords of 1979, the Reagan initiative of September 1982, and the Madrid bilateral negotiations launched in October 1991 by the United States and the former Soviet Union. Canada has also supported the Fez Declaration of the 1982 Arab Summit, calling for Security Council guarantees for all states of the region, including Israel, the decision of the Palestine National Council to accept Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for peace negotiations, and the mutual recognition announced by Israel and the PLO.

Status of Jerusalem

Canada believes that the status of Jerusalem can be resolved only as part of a general settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and opposes Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem.

Progress Through Diplomatic Support and Practical Contributions

Canada is a strong advocate of moderation and diplomatic support for those who take risks for peace. Canada has emphasized the importance of practical contributions such as participation in peacekeeping forces, support for human rights and the establishment of development assistance programs in the region.