

It is my very great pleasure to have this opportunity to speak to you at your annual policy conference and to discuss with you aspects of the Middle East situation. For the more than thirty years that the United Nations has been concerned with the Middle East question, Canada has also been closely involved. As one of the midwives, as it were, to Israel's rebirth, we have never wavered in our support for Israel's integrity, security and independence. This support has by no means been confined to the Jewish community in Canada. That community has, of course, a very special interest, but support for Israel's security and interest in its well-being is shared by all Canadians.

Over the past thirty years, all of us have watched with great admiration the tremendous efforts made by the Jewish people in creating the modern miracle of a reborn Israel - an achievement realized often under the most difficult of conditions. In meeting the challenge of a new state, Israelis have created a vibrant homeland which has stimulated them to excel in the arts, in industry, in agriculture, in every field of human