

When fighting on a relatively large scale broke out in southern Palestine, Canada also took an active part in the efforts of the Security Council to contain the fighting. In company with France and Belgium, our delegation took the initiative in introducing the resolution which formed the basis for the successful armistice negotiations concluded with the aid of the acting mediator and his staff between Israel and four of its Arab neighbours -- Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

At the present time, under the United Nations Technical Assistance Plan, Canada is contributing to the industrial, agricultural and political development of Israel. For example, Dr. O.E. Ault, a senior Canadian civil servant, has recently returned to Ottawa from a three-month mission during which he advised government officials in Israel on the development of recruiting and training programmes for the public service.

Canada has admiration for the imagination, ingenuity, resourcefulness and persistence that have been displayed by the people of Israel during the past five years. Under the dynamic leadership of their Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, the people of Israel have faced up courageously to their challenging problems and responsibilities. I am confident that over the next five years, Israel will continue to make its distinctive contribution to the spiritual and material progress of the great community of nations.

As a young state, Israel has an unique opportunity to plan its development in an orderly and ordered manner. It need not create the problems of traffic congestion, town planning, slum clearance and so on that are the unwelcome heritage of older countries. It can begin at the beginning to plan things right in the first place.

And in its planning, the most important aspect of all will be that which is done on the human level. Internationally, Israel's main concern revolves around its relations with the Arab world, in particular its immediate neighbours, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. At the United Nations I have had frequent talks with Mr. Sharett, the Foreign Minister of Israel, about this vexing problem. I think it is correct to state that it is his belief and that of his Government that no permanent security or stability will be possible until Arabs and Israelis together are able somehow to work out a formula for the amicable settlement of their various points of disagreement.

In the wider sphere of international relations, the nations of the Western world are confident that Israel will continue to take its stand on the side of democracy and freedom. After the terrible persecutions their people have recently suffered at the hands of the Soviet powers, and with two and a half million sons and daughters still shut off from all contact with the outside world, there is little chance that Israel will ever be taken in by the hollow promises and empty dreams of Communism's pagan philosophy.

And in its own domestic life, as in its national and international relations, Israel will surely set an example for all the world of tolerance and respect for the rights of others. Would it not be a tragic and ironic thing if, after all the centuries of suffering, of inhuman and unreasoning persecution, the children of Israel, who have