

b) Curbing of terrorism and violence

Curbing of terrorism would be an important way to improve the atmosphere. Acts of terrorism against Israeli citizens still occur and groups within the PLO claim credit for them. The Committee has already, in its meetings with PLO representatives, strongly urged that it formally commit the organization to reject the use of terrorism.

Violence against Arabs in the occupied territories by Israeli extremist groups has also been a problem. The Committee has noted that the Israeli government has taken action to stem anti-Arab violence by Jewish extremist groups in the occupied territories.

c) Easing of restrictions

Another important move that could improve the atmosphere and that could help lead to a more normal political process in the occupied territories would be to allow some of the former West Bank and Gaza Palestinian leaders now in Jordan to visit and talk to their people. Because Egypt and Jordan have long been advocating an easing of restrictions in the occupied territories, such increased mobility could help bring about the establishment of more normal relations between Israel and Egypt and a gradual improvement in relations between Israel and Jordan.

d) Halting of settlements

A most valuable action to diminish frictions in the West Bank would be the halting of Jewish settlements. During the seven years of the Likud government, nearly 100 new settlements were established in the occupied territories. In the Committee's view, the Canadian government should continue to urge Israel to end, not just freeze, settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza. In the Committee's opinion the reversibility of settlements would be feasible but only as part of an overall political agreement in which Israel would undertake responsibility for the removal of the settlers from the settlements.

e) Palestinian representation in negotiations

Since the Arafat-Hussein agreement in early 1985, Jordan and Egypt have been attempting strenuously to form a delegation comprising Palestinians acceptable to Israel so talks could begin. The Committee is persuaded that it is in the interest of the Palestinian people to take advantage of the opportunity for participating in negotiations by proposing moderate non-PLO Palestinians as their representatives as soon as possible to join the Jordanian and Egyptian negotiating body for the first stage negotiations under the Camp David Framework Agreement.

f) Mutual recognition

It is evident that, ultimately, negotiations can only proceed if both sides accept the existence of the other side. The Arabs will have to deal with Israel as