

CAN SUCH A PEACE BE ACHIEVED? WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE PATH TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT WILL BE LONG AND DIFFICULT, BUT ALL PARTIES, AND THE WORLD, RECOGNIZE THE URGENCY OF MAKING FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS THAT GOAL. WE CAN ALSO SEE, JUST POSSIBLY, A FEW HOPEFUL SIGNS TO SUGGEST THAT SOME PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE:

- (1) THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR PEACE.
- (2) THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT ISRAEL'S NEIGHBOURS, STARTING WITH EGYPT, HAVE COME TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF ISRAEL.
- (3) EVEN AMONG SOME PALESTINIAN ARAB LEADERS, EXCEPT THOSE ON THE EXTREMIST FRINGE, THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTING AND LIVING AT PEACE WITH ISREAL IS NO LONGER AN UNTHINKABLE HERESY. THERE MUST BE A FORMAL AND PUBLIC COMMITMENT BY THE PALESTINIANS TO THESE GOALS. WITHOUT IT PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE WILL REMAIN IN JEOPARDY. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL WORK FOR LONG UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS HAVE ACCEPTED IT.
- (4) THE UNITED STATES REMAINS WILLING TO THROW ITS WEIGHT INTO THE EFFORT TO REACH A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THE BRILLIANT DIPLOMACY OF DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN SUCCEEDED BY EQUAL TALENT AND DETERMINATION FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.
- (5) THE SOVIET UNION IS ALSO WILLING TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE AND TO BE INVOLVED AS CO-CHAIRMAN IN EFFORTS TO REVIVE CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL PARTIES.

#### WHAT OF CANADA'S ROLE?

OUR EFFORTS IN PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS BEAR ELOQUENT WITNESS TO OUR CONCERN FOR PEACE AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, WHICH WE HELPED TO WORK OUT TEN YEARS AGO, AND WHICH WE STILL CONSIDER THE MOST HOPEFUL BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, CANADIAN POLICY PLACES FIRM EMPHASIS ON THE RECOGNITION WHICH IS BASIC TO 242, OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AS AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THESE POSITIONS AND TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHETHER AT GENEVA OR BY SOME RETURN TO THE SO-CALLED "STEP-BY-STEP" METHOD WHICH HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED MUCH. WHERE WE SEE ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER ADOPTING POSITIONS OR POLICIES THAT SEEM TO US TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED WE WILL SAY SO. WHERE WE SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE WE WILL URGE THAT THEY BE PURSUED. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO URGE THE PARTIES TO EXAMINE ALL REASONABLE POSSIBILITIES FOR A SOLUTION THAT CAN BE DEvised.