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CANADA'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

The following is the text of a speech on the Middle East crisis made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in the General Assembly of the United Nations on January 29:

"... The problem... with which we have been dealing is coming to a head with consequences of vital importance to us all and perhaps even for international peace. As I see it, it is a problem not only of the completion of the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, though that is first in order of priority. It is a problem not only of making arrangements for security in the unsettled areas concerned or for free navigation but of making, I hope, constructive arrangements here which will be agreed on in this Assembly, but which would take effect only after Israel had accepted the decision of the United Nations to withdraw.

"If Mr. President, we take the position that the United Nations cannot even discuss these related questions at this time--these questions of arrangements along the lines that I have just indicated--then we cannot begin to consider these questions until after withdrawal plans have been completed. If we cannot consider them or take a decision on then now, or immediately after the time we have taken a decision here on withdrawal, even if that decision is not to be implemented until after withdrawal itself, then I believe certain delegations will have great difficulty in accepting that position in regard to the rela-

tionship, or if you like the non-relationship between these two problems.

"If, on the other hand, Israel does not agree to complete an immediate withdrawal, or to proposals for a reasonable solution of the related problems, proposals which would be acceptable to this Assembly, then there will be no peaceful settlement of these problems. And Israel would be in a position of having taken the responsibility of rejecting decisions of the United Nations and remaining where she is without any international support and indeed in the face of an international decision. I suggest, Mr. President, we must do our best to avoid both these negative results by rejecting both these extreme positions. I believe we should take this middle position not in the interest of any one state and certainly not to reward or approve any action taken by any state which we have already condemned, but I suggest we should follow this course in the interest of peace and security.

"Certainly Israel has no right to attach her conditions to withdrawal of her forces, but as delegations to the United Nations Assembly we have, I think, the right and indeed perhaps even the duty to relate these two positions in a way which will make impossible in the future the kind of situation which we have been facing in the last two or three months. I believe as delegations we have, at least my delegation thinks it has, the right to feel that our attitude towards the one prob-

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CONTENTS

Canada's Views On Middle East	1	Brucellosis Eradication	5
New Railway Line	3	Canals Busy	6
Professional Personnel	3	RCAF In UNEF	6
Financial Standing	3	Fewer Vehicles	6
Freight In '56	4	Notwithstanding TV	7
Margarine And Butter	4	Egg Production Up	7
Target Budworm	4	More Room	7
Science And Fisheries	5	More Students	7