

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

Statement on Seven-Power Draft Resolution
by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State
for External Affairs, at the Third Emergency
Special Session of the General Assembly of
the United Nations, New York, August 19, 1958

I am sure that Members of this Assembly by now have had time to study the draft resolution which the Canadian delegation is pleased to sponsor with the delegations of Colombia, Denmark, Liberia, Norway, Panama and Paraguay.

After the lucid presentation of this joint draft resolution by the representative of Norway -- with whom it has been an honour and a pleasure for me to co-operate closely during the past week -- there is no need for me to analyse again the contents of the draft resolution. Instead, I wish to dwell for a moment on some of the considerations which we have had in mind during the discussions leading up to the introduction of a draft resolution in the form now before us.

Along with Mr. Engen, I concede immediately that this draft resolution is not perfect, it is not ideal. It will probably be found entirely satisfactory or perfect to no country or grouping of countries. That is perhaps inevitable, but I do suggest, that it is not necessarily a weakness when the objective of the draft resolution is a reconciliation of conflicting interests, for if it were otherwise there could be no common ground, no point of departure from which to seek conciliatory and compromise solutions which will safeguard the essential interests of all parties without requiring of any undue risk or sacrifice.

This draft resolution is designed, therefore, to serve as a point of departure and a basis of discussion, and we would hope that it would lead to further developments in two main areas where special support to it must be given if the draft resolution is to achieve its purpose.