

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONSCAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 29

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

June 23, 1967

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERYPress Office
750 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017
YUkon 6-5740MIDDLE EAST

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., Q.C., M.P., at the Fifth Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on June 23, 1967.

For the fourth time in the history of this Organization, the Assembly has been called into special session to deal with emergency conditions in the Middle East arising out of the conflict between Israel and her Arab neighbours. It was barely 20 years ago that the first special session of the Assembly found itself involved with this persistently difficult problem, arising from a conflict with a long and bitter heritage. It engages the anxious concern of the international community and in particular the adherents of three of the world's great religions. It is a problem, moreover, which could tarnish the name and weaken the influence of the United Nations unless we can control its immediate effects and remove its long-term causes.

My country has been closely associated with United Nations efforts to mediate in Palestine. A Canadian served on the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine in 1947. Canada was associated with the negotiations which subsequently took place at the third session of the Assembly and which led to the resolution of November 29, 1947. This resolution provided for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states and reserved a special status for Jerusalem. We served on the Security Council in 1948-49 when the Palestine question was among the most important to be considered and when the armistice agreements were arranged. We provided one of the early Directors-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and a little later the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, to which we have contributed observers since 1954. The present Prime Minister of Canada, Lester Pearson, took an intimate part in the negotiations which led to the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force. Canada supplied the first commander, General Burns, and a sizeable contingent to the Force. The United Nations Emergency Force was the first peacekeeping force to be established by the United Nations. I am convinced that its record