

Middle East

All of us must be heartened by the remarkable progress achieved over the past year towards a just solution to the Middle East conflict. President Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem less than a year ago and the warm reception given to him by Prime Minister Begin and the Israeli people have had a dramatic sequel in the accords at Camp David. The Government of Canada has sent its congratulations to President Carter, President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin for this act of statesmanship. The prospect of a real and durable peace is now much closer, although serious issues remain to be resolved.

Canada supported and encouraged the negotiating process begun in Jerusalem. We welcomed the bold initiative of President Carter in again bringing the heads of government of Israel and Egypt together at Camp David and we endorse the agreements reached there. They are a milestone on the long road to peace, a road which Canadian soldiers have watched over for more than twenty years.

The deliberations of this Assembly should serve to bolster confidence between the parties and to facilitate their negotiations. We must try to avoid recriminations and polemics, now that serious negotiations are under way. My plea is that we make an effort to moderate passions, to encourage constructive action in the area, and to strengthen the prestige and competence of the UN in the search for solutions. We do not know what the ultimate shape of a peace settlement might be. It might make provision for international involvement to assist in the implementation of its terms. Canada would consider very seriously a request to make an appropriate contribution to such an enterprise. Canada also hopes that other aspects of the problem will be addressed in the context of resolutions adopted by the Security Council. It may well be that generous financial contributions from the international community will be required; here too, Canada will certainly be prepared to assist within the limits of its capacity.

* * * * *

Mr. Jamieson also emphasized the need for all governments to observe their commitment to fundamental human rights. He called on the UN to investigate the human rights situation in Democratic Kampuchea and urged all states to alleviate the plight of Indochinese refugees. With respect to human rights, he also discussed international terrorism and the Bonn Declaration on Hijacking. Extracts from Mr. Jamieson's UN speech continue:

Human Rights

A third question demanding immediate attention, and action, is the lack of progress we have made in the United Nations in the protection of human rights throughout the world. A tragic example of this is the situation in Democratic Kampuchea. On September 8 my government brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights a detailed public report which was based on a series of voluntary statements made to Canadian representatives by individual Kampuchean refugees, a great many of whom had left Democratic Kampuchea recently. The testimony of the refugees clearly supports allegations from a variety of other sources that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has systematically violated the fundamental human rights of its citizens, and that the repression and the killing are continuing. This situation cries out for the kind of effective action that this organization should be able to provide.