

contrast to Canadian parliamentary practice abstention is a definite voting position in the UN, most frequently reflecting support for some elements of a resolution and opposition to others. Our credibility requires such an approach. Without credibility any contribution we are able to make toward peace will be severely diminished.

Conclusions on the Peace Process

In discussing the Arab-Israeli dispute and the contribution Canada might make to assist in its resolution, I have stressed that goals of mutual understanding and compromise can only be achieved through goodwill, moderation and the willingness to make difficult compromises. The history of the Middle East in this century has shown that these goals are not easily obtainable because convictions are deeply held and emotions run high. However, the change in Arab attitudes toward Israel in the past decade and the more recent transformation of relations between Israel and Egypt demonstrate that very real progress can be made.

Even a comprehensive peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours will not result in perfect stability in that region. Internal stresses and strains will continue in various countries, as will regional rivalries and global pressures on energy resources. But an end to the Arab-Israeli dispute would do much to release the considerable human and economic resources of the peoples involved. It would permit them to concentrate their energies on the growth and prosperity of their region. It is the responsibility of friendly governments such as Canada to influence the parties to the dispute to take initiatives for peace. Such a role may seem at times unrewarding and frustrating when results are not immediately forthcoming but I am convinced that the desire for peace exists among the peoples of the region. It is the responsibility of countries like Canada to help them achieve it.

RECIPROCAL RELATIONS

The Arab Boycott of Israel

In any discussion of Canadian relations with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa the implications of the Arab economic boycott of Israel must be considered. The boycott has been practised in varying degrees by Arab governments for over thirty years but it did not receive wide international attention until the dramatic increase in oil prices in 1973-74 made certain Arab countries a major market for Western exports.

While practices are far from standard as between one country and another, there are generally three levels in the Arab boycott: primary,