

I wish only to emphasize that the Canadian Government has complete confidence in the Secretary-General's diplomatic skill and patience. As we all know, he is no stranger to the political conditions which exist in the Middle East. We are sure that governments in the area share our appreciation of the Secretary-General's helpfulness during difficult negotiations. Accordingly, we believe that it would be wise not to tie the Secretary-General's hands in this matter but to allow him the opportunity, consistent with his responsibilities under the Charter, to explore the situation fully with the parties and with such others as may appear useful, all in order to bring about an easing of tension in the area.

It was for these reasons that the Canadian Delegation joined with others in co-sponsoring the draft resolution which has been introduced in the Assembly this morning. I need not describe the proposal because the document is self-explanatory and because it has been ably explained by the distinguished representative of Japan. I wish only to underline that our joint proposal is not in any sense a preferred alternative to, nor a move competitive with, the other efforts which have been made to deal with the present matter. On the contrary, and as I have indicated in this statement, we regard those efforts as highly commendable.

In these circumstances we urge that if those other efforts should prove unavailing, the "United Nations diplomacy of reconciliation", mentioned in the introduction of the Secretary-General's annual report, be permitted to take effect. What the Canadian Delegation has been looking for in this debate is an improvement in the actual situation, a means of making progress. We are confident that the approach which we and others have supported will serve those ends. We earnestly hope that this is the view of the great majority of delegations here.

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