

I was particularly intrigued by the description made by the Foreign Minister, of Israel's development program in various parts of the world. Israel is a relatively small country gripped with difficulties but in that context it has not failed to respond to the global challenge of development in the underdeveloped parts of the world, in the third world, as that part of the globe is called, and the proposal now under consideration is that it might be possible for Canada and Israel to cooperate in the international development field for the benefit of third countries where our approaches and resources might compliment one another. It seems to me that bringing Canada and Israel together in development work in third countries would provide an opportunity for the expression of our common values and an opportunity to implement the ideals which we hold together in terms of international development.

I wanted to make this very clear in my visit, that apart from the difficulties that may exist in the Middle East conflict we should not take our eye off the long-term objective of increasing mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Israel and that is also an important element in my government's foreign policy - that while we may be agitated, and rightfully so, with respect to developments at the United Nations and other international bodies, there is a constructive field of endeavour open to us bilaterally that probably will do more to forge links between these countries than speeches and rhetoric in international bodies, though I do not doubt the value of these approaches. I thought that if out of my visit there could come a Joint Economic Committee - Canada-Israel - a joint international effort in third world countries, then indeed my visit would have been well justified.

I also stressed with the Foreign Minister our desire to increase our political consultations on the international level. Not only do we want to deepen our relationship bilaterally, but I believe there is a place for increased consultations between Israel and Canada on international questions which are vital issues to both countries particularly with respect to the Middle East.

As you know, in the course of my conversations with the Foreign Minister, he indicated to me the positive attitude which his Government is taking towards HABITAT. As you know, Mr. Allon confirmed to me officially that Israel would be participating and he stressed that the concept of HABITAT was very close to his heart and the heart of the people of Israel as it was to the Israeli architect who had built the first "Habitat" at the time of the 1967 Montreal EXPO. I found these exchanges very illuminating and helpful. In the course of my discussions, I invited Mr. Allon to pay an official visit to Canada. He has taken up the invitation and now it remains for him and ourselves to decide on a mutually beneficial or mutually convenient date this year so that a further step will be taken in this process of improving and developing our bilateral relations. As His Excellency Mr. Shalev knows, because he accompanied me on these visits, I had the great fortune to have a long and useful private meeting with the Prime Minister who briefed me in great detail on his country's attitude to