

territories, of the legacy of hatred and mistrust that must be addressed to achieve reconciliation and peace with the Palestinians. We are also, however, at one in our commitment to a single human rights policy, which reflects the basic values of Canadian society and whose principles we seek to apply universally. From this perspective we call on Israel's political leaders to show vision, compassion and the strength to make the decisions required to ensure that Palestinians are treated more humanely, that human rights are respected in the territories. One step the Israeli Government could take immediately is to accept that the provisions of the Geneva convention relating to civilians in occupied territories will apply to its own administration.

A blunt truth that has emerged starkly from recent events is that Israel's chief adversary and challenge is the Palestinians, not her Arab neighbours. The implications for the peace process are fundamental. My discussions with the leaders of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt leave me in no doubt that they genuinely want a just and lasting peace, and to that end are willing to lend their assistance in negotiations. They too, however, have taken note of recent developments in the occupied territories and may be expected to be increasingly reticent in coming to an agreement unless it is clearly acceptable to the Palestinian people and its leadership. Leaders such as King Hussein and President Mubarek want to be helpful, but it is entirely beyond their power to bring peace to the occupied territories.

In focussing on recent Israeli actions, I do not for a moment mean to suggest that blame is to be found on one side only. We all condemn the abhorrent terrorist attack on the bus in southern Israel just days ago and the murder of passengers on it. It also serves as a sharp reminder that the cycle of violence must be broken on both sides. Palestinian leadership in the past has failed to seize opportunities, to take the necessary risks required to bring about peace. As in Israel, Palestinian leaders have to overcome deep division within their ranks and exhibit wisdom, moderation and vision if peace with justice for its people is to be achieved. Both Israelis and Palestinians seek a solution providing security and freedom to live in their own distinctive political and social systems. Progress in that direction could be made if Palestinian leadership took the bold step of announcing formally its acceptance of the independence and territorial integrity of Israel in return for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967. Steps by the Palestine Liberation Organization to accept unequivocally United Nations Security Resolutions 242 and 338 could have a dramatic impact on Israeli