

find the beginnings of solutions for all issues affecting the Eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf.

None of these techniques can alone provide an answer. Each has disadvantages, but each has merits. A judicious combination is what we need, within a UN context.

What we need above all is political will.

The war in the Gulf may have helped to promote it. A curious set of interdependencies emerged. Arab States acknowledge the restraint shown by Israel in the face of Iraqi SCUD attacks. Israel acknowledges the difficulties which King Hussein of Jordan has to confront in responding to his public opinion which is so anguished over the plight of Palestinians. Are these enough to enable Arab States to settle differences bilaterally with Israel, and for Israel to conform to relevant Security Council resolutions? The world must work, step-by-step, carefully but with a sense of urgency, to build an atmosphere of confidence that will allow, at last, Resolutions 242 and 338 to be implemented.

We, in Canada, have maintained for a long time that real security in the Middle East has to be built on more than protection from military aggression.

Peoples of the world wish co-operation with others.

Co-operation of a structural kind -- building together -- creates confidence. This was the great lesson in the building of Western Europe after the Second World War. It is the aspiration now of the new democracies of Eastern and Central Europe.

The other great confidence-building, of course, is democracy itself. Democracies seldom aggress others -- not as often as dictators, anyway.

We agree with Arab leaders and others from the region who say that a regional approach to confidence-building is required in the Gulf, in the Middle East, and in West Asia generally. The European experience cannot be exported or imported.

But there are some precedents.

Precedents in military confidence-building, such as the exchange of data on military forces, and on manoeuvres, and the deployment of high-technology sensor equipment such as currently exists in the Sinai.