



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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## PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
the Honourable Paul Martin, at the "Sam Lax Negev Dinner",  
at the Addis Israel Synagogue, in Hamilton, May 15, 1966.

...Peace in the Middle East, for Israel and for all countries in the region, has been one of the major objectives of the United Nations. Canada has, as you know, taken a prominent part in the work of the United Nations in this area. The nature of our contribution has been stated on many occasions. I refer to it again because of your continuing interest in the conditions which provide the ultimate guarantee that your effort and the effort of the people of Israel will bear fruit in tranquility.

Canada provides the largest number of observers to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and has, in the past years, maintained close to 900 soldiers and officers with the United Nations Emergency Force stationed in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The long duration of these peace-keeping operations has obviously led to a significant commitment of Canadian funds and manpower and has involved us in a self-denying role. Canada considers itself precluded, by reason of the impartiality called for by its UN role, from becoming a provider of significant arms or military equipment to the countries of the area. I am sure that you would understand how any action we might take towards supplying arms in that area could immediately prejudice our ability to work effectively towards peace and stability there.

This arduous and self-denying role Canada has, nonetheless, been willing to play since we have thereby made, we think, a substantial contribution to the containment of a dangerous situation and the prevention of escalation. We are prepared to continue to help in peace keeping as long as it is deemed essential for the maintenance of stability and the deterrence of conflict. Canada believes that by assisting in the maintenance of stability, both in the areas I have indicated and in the nearby island of Cyprus, it is making a major contribution to the creation of conditions which enable the countries of the area to pursue their own development. They will also contribute indirectly to the betterment of less-endowed areas. Amongst other examples, I am thinking here of Israel's assistance to certain African countries.

Canada has I think developed a sympathetic approach to and interest in Middle Eastern problems because of its experience there in recent years and its 18 years of service as a participant in Middle East peace-keeping operations.