

We understand the difficult situation facing Israel. This should not dissuade you, however, because you are a courageous people, from actively pursuing the search for meaningful negotiations which are essential if Israel is to achieve the peace and security it so ardently desires.

Canada considers it vital to any lasting settlement that there be respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the Middle East. The Government of Canada remains unalterably opposed to any attempt to challenge the right of Israel to live within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threat and acts of force. At the same time it is the Canadian Government's view that the Palestinian people should be heard and participate in negotiations regarding their destiny. Indeed, my strong impression as I conclude my visit to the Middle East is that there will be no solution unless the legitimate interests of the Palestinians are met.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister, I thank you again for the kindness and hospitality you have shown me. I am sure that the discussions I have had with the President, the Prime Minister and with you will enable me to appreciate better the difficulties you face in your quest for peace. Let me leave with you Canada's hope that favourable circumstances will be brought about which will facilitate the achievement of a peace settlement which will add still further impetus to the full realization of your country's great promise.