

**Contributions
by Canada**

We have made clear that we consider the invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent Israeli incursion into West Beirut unjustified and a grave setback to the peace process. In the words of the Prime Minister, we think it is "important to avoid actions which fuel rather than dampen the flames of violence and hatred in the Middle East". Just as the PLO's policy of armed struggle against Israel did nothing to advance the Palestinian cause, so we doubt whether Israel's prolonged use of military force in Lebanon will really add to the long-term security of Israel.

We have not been neutral regarding the fate of the Palestinians — either in its humanitarian or political dimension. Canadian support for the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians is a matter of record. Over the years, we have contributed \$70 million (US) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Of the \$2.55 million we have contributed to humanitarian assistance for Lebanon since the invasion began in June, almost a million has gone specifically to UNRWA.

What is less known, perhaps, is the contribution we have been making through non-governmental organizations, particularly to the development of medical and educational programs for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

On the political front, we have supported the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinians. We support their right to play a full part in negotiations to determine their future. Moreover, we support the Palestinians' need for political self-expression within a territorial framework. We support their right to a homeland within a clearly-defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We have never subscribed to the view that the Palestinians already have a homeland of their own, namely, Jordan.

Events in Lebanon have greatly heightened the interest of the international community in the Palestinian problem, which, with the continued security of Israel, is the central issue of the Arab-Israeli dispute. There has been growing concern about the situation of the Palestinians and their tragedy, given their developing national consciousness and their identity as a people. This has been most clearly reflected at the United Nations.

A good part of the Arab-Israeli conflict is fought in the United Nations and other international bodies with the Arabs taking the offensive and the Israelis being very much on the defensive. The Arab countries have stepped up their political campaign against Israel over the past year in virtually every international forum — over 40 separate resolutions in the General Assembly alone. These efforts were intensified this year during several emergency special sessions and may be pursued this fall at the regular General Assembly. Sometimes we can, on balance, support specific texts that they propose; but on other occasions we have been obliged to oppose or abstain on their resolutions, particularly when the texts contain elements which would seriously prejudice eventual negotiations for a peace settlement.
