

I appeal to you to respond positively to the unanimous Security Council resolution by agreeing to a cease-fire and withdrawing immediately and unconditionally from Lebanese territory so that the difficult but necessary task of working for reconciliation in the area can begin again."

Thus ends my quotation from Mr. Trudeau's message to Mr. Begin.

**Support with reservations**

With respect to the resolution before us, my delegation supports its main thrust and we therefore intend to vote in favour of it. We do, however, wish to express our concerns and reservations regarding certain elements in it.

Specifically on the reference in the preamble to "acts of aggression" by Israel, my delegation would wish to note that, under Article 39 of the Charter, the Security Council has the sole responsibility for making a determination of the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression. Canada therefore considers it inappropriate for this Assembly to imply such a determination in one of its resolutions.

Since we do not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we would also like to point out that the preamble implies a status regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization which my government has not endorsed.

**Other important issues**

Moreover, contrary to the assertion in the preamble, we believe there are a number of other issues central to the Arab/Israeli conflict besides the Palestine question. Equally important is the existence of Israel in the Middle East and its right to secure and recognized boundaries. This principle, enshrined in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, is fundamental to our policy and a prerequisite for peace in the region.

In the present critical and rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East, my delegation calls on all parties to exercise maximum restraint in their actions to prevent any further deterioration or widening of this conflict. In the days ahead it is essential that nations truly apply the basic principle of international law carefully developed over the centuries and embodied in the United Nations Charter and other documents, that is: respect for territorial integrity, non-use of force in resolving disputes and universal observance of basic human rights and freedoms. Only on this basis will a solid peace be secured in the Middle East.

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