

The position of the Canadian government is clear. Prime Minister Mulroney has expressed it this way:

"The ties between Canada and Israel and between our two peoples are multifold. They draw their strength from shared cultural and spiritual values, a deep commitment to democracy and freedom and a desire for a durable peace. These are enduring bonds which I am determined to enhance and reinforce".

As a national organization, you have your own clear focus. I think it important to note, and to commend you for, the care and attention with which you relate your specific interests to the aspirations of Canadians -- cultural, economic, social, technical, regional, linguistic, religious and spiritual. This is a natural outcome of the richness and scope of Canada's ties with the State of Israel. The CIC is respected and effective because you match Canadian interests with the vast potential of our relations with Israel. You formulate those relations in terms which Canadians throughout the country can understand and appreciate. You speak with an authority which I am pleased to acknowledge.

Political dialogue of the first order between Canada and Israel is both a requirement and a measure of our friendship. The priority we attach to this dialogue has been fully reciprocated by the Government of Israel. Particularly demonstrative of that dialogue was Prime Minister Peres coming to Ottawa during his final days in office to share his conclusions after the historic Summit of Alexandria. Our Prime Minister has valued his meetings with Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir and other representatives of Israel, as have I, here, and at the United Nations and in Israel.

I look forward particularly to meeting later today with Abba Eban, one of the genuine statesmen of the World, and having the opportunity to discuss international events with him.

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