

*Arab hard line
left MacEachen
spellbound*

was none of his business what Canada did. It was apparent that the King still accepted with extreme reluctance the decision of the Arab "summit" at Rabat to name the PLO the sole representative of the Arab people, and that he still had hopes of controlling the West Bank most of the Arab world had surrendered to the PLO. King Hussein had great praise for Canadians as first among peacemakers, who had made sacrifices for the cause of peace over the years in the Middle East.

In Baghdad, the Canadian Minister listened in fascination while Mr. Hammadi said Israel was not ready for peace and wanted to be a nuclear-equipped superpower. It was his first exposure to the Arab hard line, and he was spellbound as Mr. Hammadi talked of how Israel desired dominance from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Mr. MacEachen saw the fires of burning Beirut as he flew a roundabout route to Israel, where Messrs Rabin and Allon sought to learn if he had heard anything new in the Arab world. They also sought to reply to what he had heard.

Mr. MacEachen heard strong praise from Foreign Minister Allon, and spoke with some emotion about his visit to Israel, where he had viewed the Golan Heights that Israel seemed intent on keeping and made a private visit to the holy places.

Mr. MacEachen did more, of course, than listen during the ten days. He carefully explained the Canadian policy to those who did not know it. Canada could not recognize the PLO because it was up

to the Palestinian people to choose their own representatives, he said. The interests of the Palestinians must be recognized as part of any peace settlement. Canada was a supporter of Kissinger's step-by-step peace policy, but there seemed to be an alternative to going to Geneva for talks. Canada strongly disapproved of the United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Occasionally outspoken

He was at times outspoken, talking protecting the interests of Palestinians while in Israel and criticizing the General Assembly resolution while in Jordan.

He created a stunned silence, followed by giggles, in Baghdad when he told local reporters that his next stop was Jerusalem. "Why are you laughing?" he asked. "It's not easy to fly to Israel from here," remarked a reporter. "We'll fly a zig-zag course," the minister replied. He did, and it took twice as long as it should have.

Mr. MacEachen and his officials would take some time to digest what they learned on the trip. Riad, in his interview, indicated that Arabs were prepared to wait. After years of ignoring the Palestinian question, the West has started to recognize it, he said. Canada, like the United States now talked of the "interests" of the Palestine people. The time would come when they talked of the "rights" of those people to a homeland. The only question was whether a new war would come before the recognition.

Foreign travels

Trudeau in Latin America set stage for closer relations

by George Radwanski

Any assessment of Prime Minister Trudeau's recent visit to Latin America must be made with the peculiar nature of such travels by heads of government in mind. Superficially, they all tend to look the same — the military bands at airports, the effusive speeches at banquets, the long hours of private talks that produce few

immediately palpable results. But beneath the surface there are profound differences which can make one visit a failure and another a resounding success.

The difficulty is that the most important benefits of such travels are intangible, at least in the short term. Dramatic breakthroughs are seldom sought or