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## THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The following passages are excerpts from a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, at the fifth emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly on June 23:

...Canada, as a member of the Security Council, joined Denmark in calling the Council together on May 24 to deal with the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. It is a sad misfortune that the Council was not able to act at that time. Nevertheless, it remains seized of the situation and I note in this respect references to the Council in the draft resolutions introduced by the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. We contributed to the decisions of the Security Council calling for a cease-fire. Failure of a particular resolution should not have led in our judgment to the interruption of the Council's work. We had ourselves put forward a resolution relating to the implementation of the cease-fire and were in the process of revising this resolution in consultation with others when this special session was requested. In our view, these consultations should continue. The Security Council should deal with the resolutions before it. As we have often been reminded, the Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. Here, in this Assembly, I should hope that we could establish some guidelines to assist the Council when it resumes its work.

The roots of this crisis go deep. Its development has been complex. No one government can, in our view, be held wholly responsible for what has happened, and impartial reports of the Secretary-General support this assessment. It was on the

basis of those reports that we were concerned first to prevent the conflict, then to stop it, and, now, to find the basis for a just and lasting peace.

### BASIS OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

In 1948-49 and in 1956-57, the Canadian Delegate at the Assembly emphasized that the peace and security of the Middle East depended primarily on the recognition of two facts: the first was that the new state of Israel had been born and that, in part at least, it owed its existence as a member of the international community to a recommendation of this Assembly approved by two-thirds of its members; the second was the obligation of the State of Israel, to quote the Canadian representative speaking on November 22, 1948, to "place self-imposed limits on its demands". Mr. Pearson, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, stated here ten years ago: "We cannot but agree that, if Israel has a right to live and prosper free from fear of strangulation from its neighbours, the Arab states also have a right to feel confident that Israel will not attempt to expand its territory at their expense."

These expectations remain valid. They must be the basis on which peace and security is built in the Middle East. We shall continue to do our part both as a member of the Security Council and as a participant in the efforts of the United Nations to keep peace in the area to have them recognized and implemented. The international community has a right to expect that the parties to any dispute will make their best efforts, as they are required to do under the Charter, to find a peaceful means of settlement.