

in the implementation of such a peace. This would be a logical and consistent role for our country to play, given our traditional concern for the area, dating back more than 30 years, and our interest in seeing a dispute which has caused so much hardship and disruption resolved to the benefit of all. Such Canadian assistance could, for example, take the form of participation in some kind of peacekeeping presence or international economic effort if either of these were to be an element in a settlement.

Canada's Position

In my view, to play a useful role in the Middle East and exercise what influence we can, commensurate with our resources, we must have the respect of the governments and peoples of the region. To encourage moderation and conciliation we must be regarded as fair-minded by the parties. This means primarily that positions we take should have as their objective the goals of justice and reconciliation. It also means, however, that we must be prepared to express our disapproval when actions are taken by one or other of the parties which we believe are counterproductive to the peace process. This will mean communicating our views through diplomatic channels when we believe this will be useful. It will mean speaking out sometimes clearly in public. It also will mean our adopting an equally forthright approach at the United Nations on issues dealing with the Middle East.

To this end we should discourage UN resolutions which seek to condemn unfairly one party involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute or which demand of one of the parties immediate action which it could not reasonably be expected to undertake unilaterally without any provision for a comprehensive peace settlement. Such resolutions are particularly counterproductive because in practice Israel alone is cited in them. Canada also should discourage the introduction of politically motivated resolutions in the UN specialized agencies and should oppose vigorously attempts to suspend or expel Israel from these international bodies. Such attempts heighten tensions and create barriers to communication. They create an impression among Israelis that they cannot rely on the international community for any degree of understanding of their situation.

At the same time if we are to have respect we must avoid total identification with one party when there is also a case on the other side of the question. When resolutions arise at the UN we should judge the issues they address on their merits. If they criticize one party for specific actions, and these are criticisms with which we concur, we should support them. When we are not satisfied with certain aspects of particular resolutions but favour other parts we should consider abstaining on votes, as otherwise we will be perceived as rejecting totally viewpoints which we do not in fact reject. In