

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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MIDDLE EAST

Text of Statement made by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Security Council, on November 9, 1967.

Even at this late hour, Mr. President, I must associate my delegation with the deserved tributes and offers of co-operation to you in the very onerous task you have undertaken. You may certainly count on the full support of my delegation, and I should say that you have already won our respect in the way that you have conducted the consultations among the ten members. I should also wish to associate myself with the well-merited thanks to your predecessor, the representative of Japan.

When we last met I said that there were three types of action that were essential for the United Nations to take in regard to the Middle East: first, to see that the cease-fire was observed by the parties; second, to help the Secretary-General to strengthen the machinery of observance of the cease-fire; and third, to proceed as soon as possible, through a representative of the Secretary-General, to the beginning of the establishment of peaceful conditions in the area.

We have been wrestling for many days with the third phase, and as the representative of Nigeria, in his remarkable, frank and helpful speech rightly pointed out, we have so far been unable to reach agreement. But there is, as the representative of the United Kingdom has said, common ground among us that the United Nations can and must assist in bringing about peaceful conditions in the Middle East. It is already acting as a peace-keeper, and the willingness to strengthen peace-keeping arrangements in the area has indicated the clear recognition by the parties directly concerned that the United Nations is helpful to them. In the same way it seems to be generally recognized that the appointment of a special representative would also be helpful, and that the United Nations can and should act as a useful intermediary in the situation confronting the parties.

The Canadian delegation has supported this approach consistently - there has been a good deal of reference to consistence tonight - since the end of the fighting in June. Indeed, we circulated informally on 14 June, before the Council adjourned to enable the General Assembly to