



# Statements and Speeches

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## THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF CANADA'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, to the Canada/Israel Committee Dinner in Ottawa on April 30, 1975.

I am pleased to join with my distinguished Parliamentary colleagues in greeting you tonight on the occasion of the twenty-seventh anniversary of the State of Israel. As this is the first time I have had the opportunity in my present portfolio to be present at such an occasion, let me add that I attach the highest importance to Canada's relations with Israel. The Canadian people have always had and will always continue to have special ties of friendship and respect for the people of Israel. I look forward to visiting Israel myself before the end of the year at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of that country.

The last two years have seen important and far-reaching changes in the Middle East, changes which have carried with them new responsibilities for Canada. Indeed, in this relatively short period, our commercial, economic and financial ties with all the states of the area have grown rapidly. We have provided some 1,100 logistic and administrative personnel for the UN forces in the area, and are the single largest contributor to the UN's current peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East.

With Israel an established market, we witnessed last year yet another substantial increase in our two-way trade. Of the 1972 Export Development Corporation agreement with Israel, I understand that the full \$100 million has now been committed for projects involving thermal-electric power-stations, hotels and the Ben Gurion Airport.

I have mentioned peace-keeping. We are glad to make a contribution to this vital UN activity, not only because it is indispensable to the peace of the area but because it is in the Canadian interest to strengthen the capacity of the UN to help preserve international peace and security. We believe, nevertheless, that peacekeeping operations are a means to an end -- a peaceful settlement of the dispute. If the forces can help to maintain or establish a climate in which substantive negotiations can begin, and if these are carried on in good faith, it is that much easier for Canada to justify its participation. In view of the present efforts by the parties concerned to seek alternative methods of negotiations following the failure to agree to further disengagement in the