

within a clearly-defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We have never subscribed to the view that the Palestinians already have a homeland of their own, namely, Jordan.

Events in Lebanon have greatly heightened the interest of the international community in the Palestinian problem, which, with the continued security of Israel, is the central issue of the Arab-Israeli dispute. There has been growing concern about the situation of the Palestinians and their tragedy, given their developing national consciousness and their identity as a people. This has been most clearly reflected at the United Nations.

A good part of the Arab-Israeli conflict is fought in the United Nations and other international bodies with the Arabs taking the offensive and the Israelis being very much on the defensive. The Arab countries have stepped up their political campaign against Israel over the past year in virtually every international forum - over 40 separate resolutions in the General Assembly alone. These efforts were intensified this year during several Emergency Special Sessions and may be pursued this fall at the regular General Assembly. Sometimes we can, on balance, support specific texts that they propose; but on other occasions we have been obliged to oppose or abstain on their resolutions, particularly when the texts contain elements which would seriously prejudge eventual negotiations for a peace settlement.

The Arabs have now reached the stage of questioning Israel's bona fides as a peace-loving member of the UN, thereby laying the groundwork to expel or suspend Israel or to deny Israel its rights of membership in the United Nations family of organizations. While we understand the deep resentments which have sparked these resolutions, Canada believes firmly in the principle of the universality of UN membership and cannot give any support to moves which run counter to this principle.

As to Israel's long term intentions we consider that Israeli and all other foreign forces should withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally and without delay. Until the Lebanon situation settles down, the prospects for negotiations on the Palestinian question remain minimal. The various peace initiatives demonstrate an encouraging new impetus in grappling with the Palestinian problem. We must hope that all sides will be prepared to compromise, although in the present climate of distrust created by the latest tragedies in West Beirut, compromise may be more difficult than it has ever been. But the attempt must be made. In