

Canada in the United Nations

Continuing Support For Peace in the Middle East

In its approach to Middle East policy over the past 40 years, Canada has tried to stand out in the world community as a consistent voice for reason and moderation. Through its bilateral contacts with Middle Eastern nations, its involvement in the United Nations, its active participation in multilateral peacekeeping initiatives, and its ongoing provision of development assistance, Canada has sought to keep a fair-minded perspective on both the Arab-Israeli and other conflicts in the region.

This even-handed approach, in a region that has confounded generations of peacemakers and diplomats, has earned respect and praise from many quarters. On a practical level, it has translated into a continuing search for specific, effective measures to help improve the socio-political climate of the region and resolve the complex dynamics that underlie the continuing conflict between the Arab nations and the state of Israel.

Fairness and Justice

The following basic principles, which have been at the core of Canada's approach to the Arab-Israeli dispute, reflect a basic commitment to the development of constructive and practical responses to help improve the climate for a peaceful settlement.

- Canada has endorsed Security Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement in the region. This implies support for the requirement that Israel withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the right of every state in the area to live in peace within secure, recognized boundaries.
- Support for Israel's security, well-being and rights as a legitimate, independent state has remained a fundamental tenet of Canadian foreign policy since 1948.

■ **Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark (background).**

- Canada recognizes that a just peace must also provide for the realization of the legitimate rights of Palestinians. These include their right to play a full part in negotiations to determine their future and their right to a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Canada has opposed unilateral actions that could predetermine the outcome of peace negotiations, including the establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories and the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.
- Before the United Nations, and in other multilateral fora, successive Canadian governments have opposed one-sided resolutions aimed at prejudging the outcome of peace negotiations in the Middle East. Canada has consistently expressed its concern that these initiatives serve no practical purpose, and detract from the goals that UN agencies are established to serve. But while Canadian representatives have strongly opposed efforts to suspend or expel Israel from the UN or its specialized agencies, they have joined other nations in supporting resolutions identifying Israeli activities which are the subject of justified criticism.
- Canada supports the principle of an international Conference on the Middle East under UN auspices. However, it is imperative that the parties directly involved agree to the convening and format of such a conference, and that it should facilitate direct negotiations between them.



Direct Support

Consistent with its overall vision of the UN as a forum for practical, cooperative initiatives at the international level, Canada has provided concrete support to development projects aimed at alleviating poverty and despair found in many parts of the Middle East.

For instance, in February 1988, Minister for External Relations and International Development Monique Landry announced a supplementary contribution of \$5 million from the Canadian International Development Agency for humanitarian assistance in Lebanon. The UN Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) had recently identified 250 000 families requiring emergency support as a result of a decade of civil unrest.

Traditionally Canada has been prominent in its support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This support has increased steadily, from \$6.1 million in 1983-84 to \$11 million in 1987-88.

In 1985, Canada established a Mission Administered Fund (MAF) to help Palestinians in the occupied territories meet their basic needs in health, education and agriculture. By the 1987-88 fiscal year the program had increased tenfold, to a total value of \$500 000. The MAF has funded the purchase of X-ray equipment for