

Mr. President, it is all a little overwhelming, we must not allow ourselves to become discouraged by the seeming intractability of the region's problems. For centuries Western Europe was the scene of conflicts and tensions as deeply rooted in history as those of the Middle East. The shock of World War II provided the stimulus which enabled Western Europeans to set aside their differences. It enabled them to work together to achieve common goals. In the space of a generation borders have been flung open and ancient hostilities have been all but erased from memory.

I do not hesitate to predict that the Middle East too will witness a general reconciliation among peoples and without, we are certain, a major international conflict. One day this difficult period in its history will be studied with incomprehension by generations accustomed to placing emphasis upon bonds of mutual interest rather than narrow differences. Our task is to advance that day as rapidly as humanly possible.

- \*UNIFIL United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
- \*UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- \*UNDOF United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (Middle East)
- \*UNTSO United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
- \*MFO Multinational Force and Observers