



# Statements and Speeches

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## **CANADA'S POSITION ON THE UN RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PALESTINE QUESTION**

A Statement by the Canadian delegate Michael Kergin, to the Seventh Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, June 26, 1982

Canada views the present hostilities in Lebanon with profound sadness. A human tragedy is unfolding in a small country whose recent history has been marred by recurrent periods of violence and destruction. Again the world community is faced with an eruption of conflict which is having the most horrendous effect on the security and well-being of the civilian population. The fighting must stop in this unhappy country so that the rebuilding can begin.

We should not minimize the complexities of the situation; we recognize that Lebanon is an integral part of a region which itself is in the grip of a long-standing conflict. We are not confident that Lebanon can emerge completely from its present anguish unless wider issues in the Arab/Israeli dispute and the problems of the Palestinians are addressed and resolved. Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty, unity and strength for which we so fervently hope, can only be assured in the framework of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East that guarantees peace and security for all states in the region, including Israel, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Canada has spoken out on the recent events in Lebanon. On June 9, Mr. Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, in a public message to the Prime Minister of Israel said the following:

"With Israeli air-raids in Lebanon and rocket attacks on northern Israel already in progress, my letter to you on June 5 counselled restraint to avoid the dangers that further military action would bring. In that same letter I said we deplored and condemned as heinous crimes acts of terrorism against targets in Israel and elsewhere; but I also said that it was important to avoid actions which fuel rather than dampen the flames of violence and hatred in the Middle East.

I am dismayed by the subsequent escalation of the conflict represented by the massive movement of Israeli forces into Lebanon. Great human suffering is being caused, and the rapid northward expansion of Israeli operations is posing an increasing risk of a wider war. We in Canada understand your natural concern for Israeli lives in the Galilee, and believe that acts of violence against Israel and its citizens as well as against all others in the area must cease. But we cannot accept the proposition that the present military activities are justified or that they will provide the long-term security which you seek for the Israeli people.

**Escalation  
of conflict  
deplored**