

There is much, much more that I could say about the Middle East, but once again time constraints make it impossible. But if Canada, as has happened on two previous occasions, can be in the Security Council and can use its influence to move toward the resolution of the problems of the Middle East, then this will be one of the most satisfying things, I think, not only for those of us who have the active responsibility at a given moment, but also for all Canadians who have had such an intense interest in that area for so many reasons for so many years.

I suppose one of the other questions which is going to occupy us in the Security Council in the United Nations will be the question of the membership in the United Nations of some additional countries. Over the years there has been, of course, a growth in membership to the point where there aren't that many countries that aren't now participants, but there are some, one of them, of course, being the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. It is Canada's position that Viet-Nam should be entitled to and should be given membership in the United Nations. We say this because our commitment has been for years to universality. We don't believe that the United Nations ought to be a club made up only of countries that think alike, that in point of fact, exclusions, as we have seen in the past on a number of occasions, simply result in a heightening of tensions in particular regions of the world or between different ideologies of the world. That is why, for instance, for the same reason of universality, we would argue for the retention of South Africa as a member, and we would argue for the retention of Israel as a member.

And so we would also, and will, at the Security Council continue to press for the admission of those countries which are still outside the U.N. even though, I repeat, we may not be even remotely close to agreeing with their ideology or some of their basic political principles. The point is that the U.N. will only work if we are prepared, within that forum, to listen to views and to argue with views with which we disagree, rather than spend our time in a confined club patting each other on the back and telling each other what good boys we are.

Also, in 1977, there are, I have no doubt, likely to be important developments in the whole area of détente and, of course, the companion area of disarmament. For a number of reasons 1976 has not been a particularly productive year for East-West talks relating to disarmament. I think it is fair to say once again that probably the S.A.L.T. talks and some of the others that have been going on in different fora, have suffered as a result of the uncertainty about the future political leadership in the United States as well as, of course, for a variety of other reasons. But in 1977, once again, I think it is incumbent upon us in Canada to call -- as we have already started to do -- on the great powers to undertake a determined effort to ease the tensions which are