

hostages, have the full sympathy and support of the Canadian Government and people. We shall continue to help in whatever way we can. I have recently had discussions with other governments about a new initiative: we continue to search for ways to defuse a crisis which is as damaging to Iran as it is to world order.

**Other areas of tension**

**(a) The Middle East**

The Camp David agreement represented the first real breakthrough in Israel's relations with its neighbours since the foundation of the Jewish state in 1948. Israel fought four major wars in 30 years. The Arab-Israeli conflict has proved one of the most intractable in the world, and it has had effects far beyond the immediate region, notably on relations between Western and Islamic states. It was clear from the time the agreement was signed that it would require perseverance and courage on the part of both Israel and Egypt, as well as the United States, to maintain the momentum. The violence of recent weeks on the West Bank — violence which Canada deplors — illustrates the explosive nature of the situation. Canada is disappointed that the contracting parties have been unable to reach, by the agreed target date of May 26, an accord on interim autonomy arrangements for the occupied West Bank and it is disappointed that talks are temporarily suspended. We believe it is important for talks to resume soon; when such a delicate agreement ceases to move forward, it risks slipping backward.

**(b) Indochina**

Vietnam currently maintains an army of 200,000 in Cambodia, which it has occupied since January 1979. The war continues in the western area of the country. There is mass starvation and a continuing stream of refugees into the border areas with neighbouring Thailand. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has opposed the occupation and it has obtained widespread support from both Western and non-aligned countries, most of whom refuse to recognize the Vietnamese-imposed government in Cambodia. Canadian policy rests upon the principles and objectives of the UN resolution which we co-sponsored. We support all efforts to develop a political approach to the question. The independence and territorial integrity of the states in Southeast Asia must be respected, and it is important that the people of Cambodia have a voice in the choice and the composition of their national government.

**(c) Southern Africa**

This region has been marked by wars and instability for much of the last ten years. It was particularly good news, therefore, that the parties in the Rhodesian conflict were able to find a peaceful means to elect a government and make the transition to independence. I was pleased to represent Canada at the independence ceremonies in Zimbabwe and to meet with Prime Minister Mugabe. Canada is taking steps to establish a resident mission in Salisbury: an initial member of the advance team is already there. We plan to have a fully functional High Commission, with a resident High Commissioner, by early November. In the meantime, our High Commissioner in Zambia will be accredited to Zimbabwe; he has already opened discussions on development assistance with Zimbabwe officials.

I wish I could report similar progress in Namibia. While all parties agreed in principle in 1978 to the Western-inspired UN settlement plan to end South Africa's illegal occupation of this territory, negotiations since have yet to produce agreement or implementation. There has been some progress, particularly on technical issues.