

Israel will never withdraw from them, coupled with the announced determination to increase the number of settlements and reject any suggestion about their removal in any peace arrangement, undermines confidence about the possibility of successful negotiations and is, therefore, very unhelpful to the peace process.

Canada has criticized the strong measures taken in the occupied territories to suppress the developing Palestinian national feeling, including Israel's closing of Palestinian universities, its tough measures to put down demonstrations (which have led to serious casualties) and its undermining of the local Palestinian leadership through the expulsion of some mayors and the dismissal of other mayors and municipal councils.

Canada has strongly opposed Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem in 1980 and its move to annex the Golan Heights in 1981.

We have made clear that we consider the invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent Israeli incursion into West Beirut unjustified and a grave set back to the peace process. In the words of the Prime Minister, we think it is "important to avoid actions which fuel rather than dampen the flames of violence and hatred in the Middle East". Just as the PLO's policy of armed struggle against Israel did nothing to advance the Palestinian cause, so we doubt whether Israel's prolonged use of military force in Lebanon will really add to the long-term security of Israel.

We have not been neutral regarding the fate of the Palestinians - either in its humanitarian or political dimension. Canadian support for the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians is a matter of record. Over the years, we have contributed U.S. \$70 million to UNRWA. Of the \$2.55 million we have contributed to humanitarian assistance for Lebanon since the invasion began in June, almost a million has gone specifically to UNRWA.

What is less known, perhaps, is the contribution we have been making through non-governmental organizations, particularly to the development of medical and educational programmes for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

On the political front, we have supported the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinians. We support their right to play a full part in negotiations to determine their future. Moreover, we support the Palestinians' need for political self-expression within a territorial framework. We support their right to a homeland