

imum publicity" for the studies and recommendations of the Committee on Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee, which was created in 1975, has recommended that the exercise of Palestinian rights "may be carried out in two phases: The first phase involves the return to their homes of the Palestinians displaced as a result of the War of June 1967... [and handing over the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestine Liberation Organization]... The second phase deals with the return to their homes of the Palestinians displaced between 1948 and 1967". According to this plan, Israel has no rights — just an obligation to comply with instructions to self-destruct.

Jamieson at the UN

The significance of the UN's lopsided treatment of the Arab-Israeli dispute has not been missed by Canadian diplomats over the past few years. It was not unusual, therefore, that the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, in plenary last September emphasized the profligate nature of the Assembly's Middle East deliberations. The Minister warned that "sterile debates of recent years where the outcome is always a foregone conclusion" were leading the UN down the road to "unlamented oblivion", and he pointedly criticized the Assembly for passing too many resolutions on the Middle East:

To what purpose was all that time and effort, not to mention money, expended? The answer is surely very little, because many of those resolutions simply expressed moral judgments and were devoid of practical proposals for action. Furthermore, everyone knew that they had little if any prospect of being implemented.

The Minister's blunt words drew criticism from a number of Arab delegations and congratulations from the Israeli UN Ambassador.

Turning to the Middle East situation in detail, Mr Jamieson expressed Canada's unequivocal "support for Israel's right to exist" and commitment to Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for a settlement. He said that Canada "deplores" Assembly efforts to "attribute patently-false motives to Israel or to diminish its status and rights within the UN or as a legitimate member of the world community". At the same time, the Minister expressed Canada's "regret" that Israel was still establishing settlements that "unilaterally or illegally" predetermined the situation in the occupied territories prior to the conclusion of Arab-Israeli negotiations. In addition, Mr Jamieson both reaffirmed the need to provide a "just, humanitarian and political solution

for the Palestinian Arab people" and emphasized that it must "include their clear and unequivocal acceptance of Israel's permanent existence as their neighbour".

In conclusion, the Minister urged the Assembly to help bring about the resumption of negotiations, rather than to conduct "empty debates" or pass "one-sided resolutions".

Two groups

The 16 Middle East resolutions passed by the 1977 General Assembly can be divided into two substantive groups. Ten core resolutions dealt directly with issues of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The other six were miscellaneous matters of indirect and varying consequence to the Middle East, while of basic concern to the Third World generally.

Canada supported two of the ten core resolutions. These included criticism of Israel for establishing "illegal" settlements and taking other measures in the occupied territories, and for refusing to "take steps" for the return of refugees displaced since 1967.

On three resolutions, Canada voted no. One was an omnibus condemnation of Israel as the sole party responsible for the general Middle East situation and for the "three decades" during which the Palestinian people were "denied their inalienable rights". The other two resolutions endorsed the proposals, already mentioned, of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the establishment of the Special Unit to propagandize on behalf of the Palestinians.

Canada abstained on the five other core resolutions. These included: criticism of Israel for its governing of the Gaza Strip; condemnation of Israel for "the massive, deliberate destruction of Kuneitra" on the Golan Heights; an omnibus condemnation of Israeli practices in the occupied territories — from the annexation of land to the establishment of settlements, transfer of population, destruction of property, ill-treatment and torture of persons, pillaging of archaeological sites and interference with religious freedoms; another omnibus text concerning Israel's "illegal" exploitation of the national resources of the occupied territories; and a declaration of concern for the "living conditions of the Palestinian people".

There were six "miscellaneous" resolutions. Canada voted for two concerning the United Nations program against racism. Three were opposed by Canada: a condemnation of Israeli ties with South Africa; one that strongly condemned Israel, along with the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and Italy, for collabo-

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