

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 53

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MIDDLE EAST

Text of statement made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Security Council, on the Middle East Crisis, on October 24, 1967.

Mr. President, I would, of course, wish to associate myself with my colleagues in expressing admiration for the way in which you, as President of the Council, have already conducted the consultations on means of finding a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

I should also wish to express my happiness in seeing my old friend Ambassador Borch, with whom I have been associated in the past, and to say with what pleasure Canada looks forward to continuing its collaboration with Denmark in this Council.

The current outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities in the Suez area points up, as the representative of the United Kingdom has just said, the precarious nature of the cease-fire which, as we all agreed on 6 June, was only a first step. If that first step is to be followed, as it should already have been, by further steps towards a restoration of peaceful conditions in the area, then I believe that all of us in this Council would agree that the cease-fire must be scrupulously respected by both sides and that all parties must desist from all military activities in the area.

There is more than enough inflammable material in the area without adding further fuel to the flames by acrimonious exchanges of charges and countercharges and by prolonged debates. I shall therefore be very direct and very precise.

In the present circumstances, the Canadian delegation very much hopes that the Council will adopt the following measures--not necessarily together, but urgently in a series.

First, we should call upon all parties to respect scrupulously the cease-fire and to cease and desist from all military activities in the area. Second, we should ask the Secretary-General for as full information as possible from General Odd Bull both as to the measures he has taken now under the terms of the consensus adopted by the Council on 19 June 1967 for the surveillance of the cease-fire in the area--and I know that we have received several supplementary



reports--and also as to what additional resources, if any, he may require to carry out his important and onerous task as effectively as possible under the consensus to which I referred. Third, immediate steps should be taken--as the delegation of Canada and, of course, also the delegations of India and the United Kingdom have advocated consistently since early June--to give the Secretary-General appropriate authorization to dispatch a special representative to the Middle East to start the process towards restoring peaceful conditions in the area. This indeed has been recognized as an urgent necessity by the Secretary-General himself in paragraph 48 of the introduction to his annual report.

In mentioning this third measure, I fully recognize, as did the representative of the United Kingdom, the difficulties involved in agreeing on the framework of principles within which the efforts of the special representative should be made. But I am conscious of the extensive consultations which have already taken place on this matter and are still going on under your leadership, Mr. President. I cannot believe that it is beyond the capabilities of the members of this Council to reach agreement on such a reasonable proposal and one which would break the stalemate. A fair and balanced resolution, as my colleague from the United Kingdom called it, is what we need and I believe that there exists today a consensus in favour of such an approach as the next and essential step towards peace in the Middle East. I therefore commend this programme of constructive activity to the favourable consideration of my colleagues in the Council.

