

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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### APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Statements by Mr. L. B. Pearson, Leader of the Canadian Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations, before the Security Council on December 2, 1948; and by Mr. R. G. Riddell, a member of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, before the Security Council, on December 17, 1948, in Paris.

#### Text of Mr. Pearson's Speech, December 2, 1948.

My very few remarks on this matter will be limited strictly to the question of procedure. In this regard, we support the reference of this matter in the normal way to a special committee, where we hope it will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

However, like the representative of France, we feel that there is a relationship between this question of urgency and the questions which are now under discussion in the First Committee. We are not yet certain what resolution will come from the First Committee, what it will contain; and we do not know, therefore, what obligations it will lay upon the peoples of Palestine.

Article 4 of the Charter provides that membership in the United Nations shall be open to peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the Charter and are able and willing to carry out these obligations. But, in the case of the application which has been received from the Israeli authorities, these qualifications can, I suggest, be judged only in relation to the resolution which the General Assembly carries on the subject of Palestine. Until that resolution has been formulated, we shall not know what it will be necessary for the Israeli authorities to do in order to fulfil their obligations to the Organization, nor can we tell, of course, whether they will be able and willing to carry out these obligations. If the First Committee should adopt a resolution which makes adequate provision for a peaceful settlement in Palestine through the appointment of a conciliation commission which will work out, in consultation with those concerned, the necessary details of such a settlement, and if the Israeli authorities agree faithfully to endeavour to carry out the provisions of that resolution, then it may be possible to give speedy and sympathetic consideration to its application. If, on the other hand, the action which is taken in the First Committee proves unacceptable to the Israeli authorities, we might have to give the matter further consideration. If -- although I think this is unlikely -- for some reason or other, the First Committee is prevented from reaching any decision, while we might still wish to act on the Israeli application for membership, I nevertheless think we should wish to consider our actions in terms of that specific situation.

...../Therefore,

Therefore, while agreeing that this matter should go to the special committee, I hope that that committee, when it begins its work, will keep these considerations in mind and relate its consideration of this matter to what is going on in the First Committee and, ultimately, in the Assembly on this question of Palestine.

Text of Mr. Riddell's Speech, December 17, 1948.

Mr. President,

The Canadian delegation realizes that the United Nations has placed certain obligations and responsibilities on the Provisional Government of Israel and it is not unreasonable that this Government should request the privileges and advantages of membership in the United Nations. We should like to give immediate consideration to this request but, in the circumstances surrounding the termination of the session of the General Assembly in Paris, we have found it more difficult than we expected to give this application the careful consideration which we find to be necessary. I shall give one example of the kind of problem that has arisen for us.

In the course of the discussions which have taken place here and in the Committee on Membership concerning the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations, the boundaries of the area under the control of the Israeli authorities have been mentioned on a number of occasions. The Canadian delegation does not think it necessary to delay action on the Israeli application until boundaries have been finally established. The question of boundaries, however, has been raised in a manner which we think requires reflection.

If I understand correctly the remarks which have been made on this aspect of the question by the representatives of the U.S.S.R. and of the Ukraine, these representatives regard the Assembly resolution of November 29th as definitive and binding in every regard, including boundaries. In his statement before the Security Council on Wednesday last, the representative of the U.S.S.R. said:

"In our opinion, the territory of the State of Israel has been determined and delimited by an international instrument, that is, the resolution of the General Assembly of 29th November, 1947, which has not been revoked by anybody, and which remains in force. Not only does that resolution delimit the territory and boundaries of the State of Israel, but the resolution has a map appended to it, which can be consulted at any moment by any member of the Security Council or by anybody else. Thus, this question is undubitable."

I am not sure, however, what the representative of the U.S.S.R. intends in regard to boundaries. In his statement on Wednesday, to which I have already referred, he used the word "enforcement" in relation to these boundaries. He may, therefore, believe that the Security Council should take action to make sure that the Israeli authorities withdraw from all areas which are not assigned to them by the November 29th resolution and that, without reference to the realities of the situation in Palestine, the Security Council should also adopt measures to bring an Arab State into existence, by force if necessary, to take over the territories not assigned to the Jewish State under the November 29th resolution. It would be logical to assume also, that he considers that the Security Council should take the necessary steps to enforce economic union and all the other details of the November 29th resolution.

...../It seems

It seems to us that it would be extremely difficult to carry out the programme which is implied by the statement by the representative of the U.S.S.R. which I have quoted. I am not sure either that the Provisional Government of Israel would wish to be made a member of the United Nations on these terms, or that the process of settlement in Palestine would be assisted by accepting the implications of this statement.

The position of the Canadian delegation is somewhat different. We regard the Assembly resolution as having the force of a recommendation, and we do not consider that the settlement which we hope will emerge soon in Palestine need conform precisely to any resolution of the Assembly. On the contrary, we consider that the Conciliation Commission recently established by the Assembly should be within the General principles laid down by the resolution of the Assembly, to seek a settlement in Palestine on any basis on which agreement amongst the parties can be reached.

This aspect of the question is, as I have already indicated, one to which we should like to give attention in detail. We do not wish to defer consideration of the Israeli application indefinitely. We should be grateful, however, for an opportunity to give the question more careful consideration. I hope, therefore, that the Council will not insist on taking a vote now on the Israeli application. I am impressed also by the reasons which the representative of France has given for a further brief delay, and I therefore give my support to the proposal which he has placed before the Council.

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