

GOVERNMENT

OF CANADA
STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 49/21

**APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statements by R.G. Riddell, Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the U.N. on May 7, 1949; and by G. Ignatieff, Canadian Representative, in the Plenary Session of the United Nations General Assembly on May 11, 1949.

Text of Mr. Riddell's Statement

The admission of Israel to the United Nations will, if it is decided upon, mark an important stage in the solution of a problem which has occupied a great deal of the time and attention of this organization. It will, however, be a stage and not a final act. Important questions concerning the relations of Israel with its neighbours are still under discussion. The United Nations has by no means concluded its responsibilities in regard to them. I should like, therefore, in stating the willingness of the Canadian delegation to support the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations, to indicate our attitude towards these continuing problems.

When the Palestine question was brought to the agenda of the United Nations almost exactly two years ago, no plan which commanded any considerable measure of support had been offered for its solution. In taking the problem on its agenda the Assembly was faced with the necessity of reducing the widely varied ideas which were in the minds of individual members into a concrete proposal. It was clear that the solution put forward by the General Assembly had to embody and combine in balance a number of diverse characteristics. It had to give proper consideration to the contending claims of the parties concerned; it had to command acceptance by the majority of the General Assembly required to give it validity; it had to take account of the political realities of the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean; it had to be capable of implementation; there had also to be a reasonable chance that its general principles could withstand and survive any opposition which might emerge; and it had to give a solution which in the end might be expected to meet with acceptance by the people of this area.

Generally speaking, I think the approach to this problem in the Assembly has been characterized by a desire to bring about a reasonable combination of these qualities. Certainly this has been the object of the Canadian delegation in its participation in the Palestine discussions.

The result of these discussions were embodied in the resolution of the assembly of 29 November 1947, which contains a set of recommendations for the future of Palestine. The Assembly recommended that the two communities in Palestine should be separated politically, that they should nevertheless be encouraged to maintain and develop in matters of common interest as close an association as possible through

administrative and other measures, and that the United Nations should assist them in carrying out this programme. It is perhaps unfortunate that the original Palestine resolution was elaborated in such great detail because the need for adjustments of one kind and another early became apparent. The basic principles of the plan, however, remain intact, through the process of adjusting them to the circumstances and giving them effect is by no means complete.

It is of course most unfortunate and regrettable that violence attended the political separation of the two communities. The United Nations has however, never been in a position to move into the Palestine area for the purpose of suppressing this violence by the process envisaged under Article 43 of the Charter. It has never, therefore, been under the temptation to attempt of itself to enforce on the people of Palestine a solution to their political problems. Perhaps it has been fortunate for the future of the United Nations that this has been so, for, as a consequence primary responsibility for the working out of the details of the settlement has remained with the peoples themselves who reside in that area. The United Nations, however, has made its influence felt in other ways. Though it has not been able to suppress violence, the Council has never wavered from the principle that political solutions must be sought and found without resort to force. In face of the violence which did occur, the Security Council and the General Assembly showed themselves capable of working out and applying technique to assist people of this area in putting an end to the fighting and they have established procedures for conserving the conditions of peace when they had been restored. Finally the United Nations has shown in a remarkable degree that it can make available the loyal and efficient services of the members of its staff, and of private individuals whose services it was able to command, for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities with which it has been charged. When the resolution of 1947 was adopted, the General Assembly set the Security Council its task and as requirements and opportunities for service developed, individuals came forward in answer to the call. They went willingly and with a sense of high purpose to carry out the duties to which they were assigned. They have done far more than merely contribute to the development of events in Palestine, for they have demonstrated to the world how effectively the United Nations organization, even though it has at its disposal not one soldier and not one gun, nevertheless can act to carry out its purposes and principles. They have shown that in the face of opposition and difficulty the organization can hold persistently and patiently to its purpose which in the end it can achieve.

We greatly regret that in Palestine some of those serving the United Nations have been called upon to give their lives. We have already recognized in a meeting of the General Assembly the great services of Count Bernadotte and of other members of the various United Nations bodies in Palestine who gave their lives in this undertaking and we have paid our deep tribute to their sacrifices. We have read with care the recent statements of the Israeli Government concerning its investigation into the assassination of Count Bernadotte, and we noted in particular the assurances of the Israeli delegate that the case is not closed. We trust that action may yet be taken to apprehend and punish the murderers. In this way very necessary assurance will be given that crimes against the personnel of this organization will not be overlooked. At the same time, a deterrent to a repetition of these crimes will be created so that in future we may be confident that the agents of the United Nations will receive the respect which is their due.

The second main objective stated in the 1947 resolution remains yet to be accomplished. I refer to the recommendation that, together with political separation, there should go the greatest degree of economic and administrative co-operation possible amongst people of the area. The details of the plan of economic union as it was embodied in the 1947 resolution, did not, unfortunately, correspond to the realities of the situation as they have developed. The objective for which economic union was suggested,

however, remains. The welfare of the people of Palestine, the peace and stability of the area, the ability of its people to contribute to the well-being of mankind, depend upon the extent to which effect is given to this principle. Once the political future of the people in the Arab areas has been determined, it will be necessary, therefore, to work out plans for economic and social co-operation not only in Palestine but in the whole area. As in the case of political settlement, responsibility must rest primarily with people in the area themselves. I am confident that the United Nations can give assistance in this regard fully as valuable as the assistance which it has already given in relation to the political settlement. Whatever role the United Nations plays, however, its efforts will not take the place of the close collaboration of the governments of the eastern Mediterranean states, upon which the main responsibility must rest. The United Nations can supplement their efforts it cannot provide a substitute for them.

The very important second part of the settlement in Palestine cannot, however, be accomplished, or even effectively started, until the political arrangements contemplated in the first parts have been carried beyond their present stage. For this reason, I conclude by referring to the work of the Assembly's Conciliation Commission which is now meeting in Switzerland, and through which we hope to pass from the stage of an armistice to a final military and political settlement. It seems to the Canadian Delegation that we should avoid debating here the subjects which are under negotiation in that Commission. The outcome of these negotiations is of the greatest importance and we must be very careful not to disturb their course. The Assembly has indicated the general principle upon which it expects these remaining questions to be settled. Through the Conciliation Commission, we have an effective method by which these questions -- final boundary adjustments, Arab refugees and the future of Jerusalem -- can all be negotiated, and the Assembly may therefore have confidence that the intention in this regard expressed in the Assembly's resolution will be carried out.

We have listened with deep interest to the statements made by the Israeli representative in regard to each of these points and we welcome the co-operation and constructive suggestions which he has made. The undertakings which he has given concerning the protection of Holy Places contain the assurance that his Government will help work out the details of these arrangements with the object of satisfying the essential interests of the great religious communities of the world.

The arrangements which must be made concerning the Arab refugees are also of great importance. The Israeli Government has pledged itself to full co-operation, the Israeli authorities will recognize that the issue involved is not only the settlement of the immediate consequences of the conflict, but the establishment of a basis of friendly collaboration for the future between all the peoples of the area.

The Canadian Delegation expects, therefore, that the parties now engaged in the negotiations in Switzerland will so act that solutions will be reached within the meaning and spirit of the resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council and of the aims and purpose of the United Nations. In applying for membership, the Government of Israel has affirmed its willingness and its ability to fulfil its obligations under the Charter, and this Delegation will support its application in the belief that it will carry out this stated intention as a loyal member of the United Nations.

Text of Mr. Ignatieff's statement

The position of the Canadian Delegation on Israel's application for membership in the United Nations has been fully stated, both in the Security Council and in the Ad Hoc Political Committee and I therefore do

not need to repeat it here. The General Assembly is about to take a decision on this application, the result of which, I hope, will be that Israel will be admitted to membership in this organization. The Canadian Delegation, which had the honour to be associated with the sponsorship of a joint draft resolution recommending a favourable decision on Israel's application will welcome the admission of Israel into the United Nations. We trust that Israel will recognize the great responsibilities and obligations which all members of this organization assume under the Charter -- to live in peace with other nations and to contribute in every way to the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

The admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations will mark a significant stage in the political growth of this new state. We are confident that Israel will represent those traditions of freedom and democratic progress through which the purposes and principles of this organization can best be advanced. The Canadian Delegation looks forward to the contributions which Israel can make to the aims of the United Nations.

.....

S/C