

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESS RELEASE No. 85

November 22, 1967.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Office:
866 United Nations Plaza
Suite 250
New York, N.Y. 10017
PLAZA 1-5600.

MIDDLE EAST

Text of Statement in Explanation of Vote
made by the Canadian Permanent Representative,
Mr. George Ignatieff, in the Security Council,
on Wednesday, November 22, 1967.

I shall be very brief in explaining the position of the Canadian delegation on the draft resolution which has just been adopted unanimously.

The Canadian approach towards all proposals has been determined by the extent to which any particular proposal could have the effect of getting under way those diplomatic processes which we believe would lead to a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the Middle East.

It is with this consideration in mind that Canada willingly supported the United Kingdom draft resolution which is now the resolution of the whole Council. We think that this resolution, which is clear and speaks for itself, has the best prospects of opening the way to the result which I believe we all desire, namely, a state of just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The resolution just adopted does, in our view, meet the essential positions of both sides, taking into account the various ideas which emerged from consultations among non-permanent members and among permanent members of the Council, as well as with the States in the area. The resolution represents a fair, balanced and non-prejudicial basis for the dispatch to the Middle East of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, the unanimous adoption

of the resolution is in itself a positive contribution which should provide the best framework for the successful launching of the task of the Special Representative.

This is the main step now being taken by the Security Council, namely, to put the presence of a representative of the Secretary-General into the area to help bring about negotiations and peaceful conditions. As for the mandate of the Special Representative, it entails, in the words of the criterion which I set out when I spoke in the Council on 9 November, "an equitable balance of obligations" on both sides (1373rd meeting, p. 139-140). It is most important that the Council has finally acted to have a Special Representative appointed and that his influence should be brought to bear as soon as possible in the area in the interests of establishing a just and lasting peace. We hope very much that the Special Representative will have the necessary co-operation of all the States directly concerned in the area.

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