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EXTÉRIEURES.



NOTES FOR A SPEECH DELIVERED
IN JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 27, 1977
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE DON JAMIESON, ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS OFFICIAL
VISIT TO ISRAEL

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It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Israel with you tonight. A year ago I had the privilege of acting as host to your predecessor in Ottawa. At that time I promised him I would return to Israel, which I first visited in 1971. I have rarely enjoyed keeping a promise as much. This return of hospitality offers me an opportunity to meet you, Mr. Dayan, and to continue a personal exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East and on our bilateral relations. It is perhaps not surprising that we have talked most about the Middle East for this is a time of unusual challenge and hope as efforts to get constructive negotiations under way are pursued with new intensity. You have the good wishes of all Canadians in your quest for peace.

Canada was among the first to support the creation of this new state, and throughout the decades of your independence you have had the friendship of all Canadians. We have developed links of many kinds and at many levels; a constant flow of visitors in both directions, family ties, flourishing trade, and a multitude of personal, cultural and official contacts.

As old friends, which we are, I feel that we have developed a relationship of understanding and mutual respect that permits the kind of frank and open discussions we have had today. What marks our relationship above all and makes this kind of discussion possible, I think, is our shared democratic and social institutions and the tradition of working together for international stability and prosperity.

In no part of the world has stability been more elusive than in the Middle East. The problem of how to bring peace to this troubled region -- and the risk to world peace if we do not -- have preoccupied successive Canadian Governments over the past thirty years. The continuing presence of Canadian peacekeeping forces in this region is a tangible demonstration of our new concern. In the long run, however, stability in the Middle East cannot be ensured by mere peacekeeping. Instead, a comprehensive peace settlement is necessary which will bring about the normalization of relations between Israel and its neighbours, and which will open the way to reconciliation and economic and other contacts with all neighbouring peoples. Without minimizing the immense difficulties, I am convinced that there are opportunities now for progress towards peace that must be seized before they are lost.

I know that decisions are extraordinarily difficult when the security and sovereignty of states are at issue. It is my hope, however, that all the parties concerned in the Middle East problem will continue to have the courage and the breadth of vision necessary to make the difficult choices which will be required if the momentum

towards peace is to be maintained and expanded, and the imagination to bridge the gap that still separates the positions of the two sides. The consequences of failure -- of the indefinite continuation of war and tension that we have known in the Middle East during our lifetime -- are simply appalling, for Israel and for the whole world.

It is with this appreciation of the importance and the urgency of bringing peace to the Middle East that I have come to hear your perceptions of the situation and your frank views on its many complicated issues. At the same time, I wanted to share with you the perspectives of a friend of Israel, far away and not directly involved, but anxious to make any contribution we can to your continued well-being in conditions of genuine peace. Our views on specific issues are not always the same as yours. This is surely inevitable, since what are subjects of concern for us are matters of life and death to you. I hope that you realize that where we differ, it is not because we are unconcerned for Israel's future, but because we deeply care for it. Our goals are the same as yours; peace, stability and prosperity for Israel and for its neighbours.

We have talked today of the way forward to peace and found that on very many aspects our views are similar. I have stressed, for example, that we regard the implementation of all aspects of Security Council Resolution 242 as essential. Canada considers it vital to any lasting settlement that there be respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every country in the area. The Canadian Government remains unalterably opposed to any attempt to challenge the right of Israel to live within secure and recognized boundaries free from both the threat and acts of force. These boundaries must be settled in negotiations and must be truly acceptable to those who will live on each side of them if they are to be secure in any real sense. It also is my Government's view that some way must be found to ensure that all peoples in the area, including the Palestinians, can be heard and can participate in negotiations concerning their future. Any peace settlement must satisfy Israel's need for credible assurance of its security. But it must also meet the basic concerns of Israel's Arab neighbours. The Palestinian Arabs cannot be left out of the peace-making process, nor can their aspirations be ignored if a settlement is to last. It seems to me that a solution to this sensitive but crucial element in the whole Middle East problem will have to involve some sort of territorial foundation for the expression of their identity. It is not for Canada to say what political form this should take -- there is a range of possibilities. But whatever the form, it is certainly basic to our thinking that the Palestinians should accept Israel -- in terms convincing not only to the world at large but to Israel itself -- and be willing to live in peace with it.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister, I would like to propose a toast to you and your wife personally, to the Government and people of Israel, and to the fulfilment of your hopes for peace and prosperity.