

PRESS RELEASE

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DECEMBER 24, 1948.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs made the following announcement today:

The Canadian Government has today informed the provisional government of Israel that the Canadian Government recognizes de facto the State of Israel in Palestine and that it also recognizes de facto the authority of the provisional government of Israel.

The State of Israel was proclaimed on May 15, 1948. During the seven months that have elapsed, the State of Israel has, in the opinion of the Canadian Government, given satisfactory proof that it complies with the essential conditions of statehood. These essential conditions are generally recognized to be external independence and effective internal government within a reasonably well-defined territory.

The provisional government of Israel has been informed that the recognition given by Canada is accorded in the knowledge that the boundaries of the new State have not as yet been precisely defined, and in the hope that it may be possible to settle these and all other outstanding questions in the spirit of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1948.

The following is the text of the message of December 24, 1948, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Mr. Moshe Shertok, Foreign Secretary of the Provisional Government of Israel:

"I have the honour to inform you, on behalf of the Government of Canada, that Canada recognizes de facto the State of Israel in Palestine, and that it also recognizes de facto the authority of the Provisional Government of Israel, of which you are a member. This recognition is accorded in the knowledge that the boundaries of the new State have not as yet been precisely defined, and in the hope that it may be possible to settle these and all other outstanding questions in the spirit of the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1948."

Note on the Admission of Israel to the United Nations

The recognition which Canada has now given to the State of Israel is a separate question from that of Israel's admission to the United Nations. Application for such admission was made recently to the Security Council, by which it must be approved before it can be submitted to the General Assembly, the approval of which is also required. This application was not successful, as only five of the eleven members of the Council supported it. Canada abstained from voting on this occasion because the Canadian Government considered that further time was required to examine the implications of a statement made at the previous meeting of the Council by the representative of the U.S.S.R., who had 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."

The U.S.S.R. representative also used the word "enforcement" in relation to the boundaries referred to in the above resolution. As these boundaries are not now acceptable either to the State of Israel or the neighbouring Arab states, the Canadian representative was anxious not to be put into the position of appearing to accept them in voting for the Israel application. That is why he supported a French resolution for a short postponement of the application, which would not in any event have delayed a final decision, as the Assembly, which would also have to approve the application, does not meet until April 1, 1949. The request for postponement was rejected, and the Canadian representative therefore felt obliged to abstain on the vote on the application, which, of course, can be made again by the State of Israel, if it so desires.