



CJPME

Meeting the Challenge

A CJPME Proposal for Canada's Middle East Policy

3. Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Prepared by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East



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Canada is officially “committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, including the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel.” While reflective of the international consensus on the conflict, Canada’s position is nonetheless short on detail and specifics. And with recent Canadian governments, the official “balanced” positions are rarely reflected in the words and actions of the sitting government.

CJPME believes that Canada should unambiguously and forthrightly call for a resolution of the conflict based upon the following key elements:

- General Assembly Resolution 194 and a just resolution to the Palestinian refugee problem.
- Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace.
- Special arrangements for Jerusalem to become a shared capital.

The basic outlines of a territorial agreement between Israel and the Palestinians have been clear for some time, and entail Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory in accordance with Resolution 242. Considerable progress was made towards an agreement in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations during the latter months of 2000 and in January 2001. CJPME believes that the parties can usefully draw upon the constructive elements of the Clinton Parameters, together with the progress made at the Taba Summit as outlined in the Moratinos Non-Paper, in order to bridge their remaining differences on territorial issues, including Jerusalem, as well as refugees, bilateral security and other issues.

Security must be an essential element in any solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both Israelis and Palestinians have a right to live at peace within secure and recognized boundaries. Initially, security could be guaranteed by an international presence that could only be withdrawn by mutual consent and which would monitor the implementation of the agreement. Security should be buttressed by regional arms control and confidence building measures, international guarantees, a comprehensive regional peace settlement and regional cooperation on security, environmental, economic, and water related issues.

Over the longer term, Canada and other members of the international community, in recognition that the Levant has historically functioned as a united geographic unit, might work to further enhance regional security by encouraging economic cooperation among Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and Palestine. The ultimate goal could be to see the five countries engaged in mutually beneficial political and economic relationships.