

Canada's Intervention: Item 7

6 March/Mars 2008

"Monsieur Le Président,

Aujourd'hui le Conseil ^a été demandé de revoir la
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situation qui prévaut en Israël et dans les Territoires
Palestiniens, en mettant l'emphase sur la Bande de
Gaza.

Le Canada est profondément préoccupé par la
détérioration de la situation et par la récente
intensification de la violence à Gaza et en Israël.

Unfortunately, through their rocket attacks, Hamas
and other militant groups appear determined to target
civilians and create even more instability and misery.

Canada repeats its call for those groups to stop

immediately their deplorable actions for the sake of those suffering.

Israel has a legitimate right to defend itself and protect its citizens against these attacks. As we have previously underlined, Canada calls on all parties to continue to work with international organizations to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to those in need.

Mr. President,

The latest violence demonstrates that a solution to the conflict can only be found through negotiations.

Canada welcomed the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process at the Annapolis Conference. Canada

reaffirmed its commitment to the peace process and the Palestinian people when it announced a contribution of \$300 million over five years to Palestinian reform and development at the Paris donors' conference.

Canada welcomes President Abbas' decision to resume peace talks with Israel and calls on both parties to continue their efforts to reach an agreement by the end of the year. In this regard, Canada believes that United Nations and Member States have a responsibility to contribute constructively to these efforts. We also reiterate that it is incumbent upon the Human Rights Council to look at issues of concern in an objective, impartial and non-selective manner.

Mr. President,

Canada regrets that, once again, the resolution under consideration does not fully take into consideration the respective roles and responsibilities of all parties, and focuses mostly on Israeli actions without recognizing Israel's right to defend itself nor condemning Palestinian attacks deliberately targeted at Israeli civilians. Unfortunately this resolution does not present an accurate representation of the situation. For these reasons, Canada ^{will} ~~voted~~ against it.