

**Statement given by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker  
before the U.N. Security Council  
Open debate on the situation in the Middle East  
February 26, 2002**

Monsieur le Président,

Je saisis l'occasion qui m'est offerte de m'exprimer dans ce débat.

Nous rendons hommage au Secrétaire général pour les remarques retentissantes qu'il a faites dans cette enceinte il y a quelques jours.

La détérioration tragique de la situation au Moyen-Orient, et notamment l'augmentation du nombre de victimes civiles des deux côtés du conflit, renforce notre consternation et notre indignation face au *statu quo*.

Nous ne pouvons pas permettre que cette inertie se perpétue indéfiniment.

Nous devons aider les parties à trouver la volonté d'échapper au cercle vicieux de la violence suivie par des représailles.

In the quagmire of this conflict, unilateral measures to enhance security succeed only in undermining it.

The rising toll of death and destruction on both sides of this conflict must be brought to a stop.

Canada continues to support the security, well-being and rights of Israel including in particular its right to live at peace with its neighbours within secure, recognized borders.

Canada also recognizes and supports the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a viable, independent state, at peace with its neighbours.

The last 17 months present conclusive evidence that neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians will be able to live within secure, internationally recognized borders until both do.

It is our firm conviction that genuine, enduring security for both can only be achieved at the negotiating table.

Canada urges the parties to end the violence and to reactivate the political process, which urgently requires new energy and attention.

Let us not shrink from considering bold, new proposals a just and comprehensive peace.

We welcome the ideas voiced by Saudi Arabia in recent days, which point the way to a solution based on cardinal resolutions 242 and 338.

All serious proposals are welcome and merit thorough consideration.

At the same time, ending the violence remains our foremost priority.

The Mitchell recommendations and Tenet proposals have for some time provided formulae for doing so.

Courage and compromise are required, on all sides, if that goal is to be achieved and if the hard-won gains of earlier peacemakers are not to be wasted.

Let the parties pursue all avenues to urge the parties to end the violence and resume negotiations.

Let us here all resolve to exercise our influence, individually and collectively, in support of peace.

Thank you.