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---UNGA XXIV:SPC ITEM53 UNRWA:CDN STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY AMB J ALAN BEESLEY DURING 11TH

SPC MTG ON 20OCT80.QUOTE

THE CDN DEL WELCOMES THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL AS WELL AS HIS REMARKS TO US IN THIS CTTEE. THESE SET OUT IN CLEAR TERMS THE ACTIVITIES OF UNRWA, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1949, UNRWA HAS PLAYED AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN ALLEVIATING THE MISFORTUNE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CAUSED BY THE WARS OF 1948 AND 1967. UNRWA IS AN ORGANIZATION WHICH GIVES SUBSTANCE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS. IN FOOD AID, IN MEDICAL CARE, IN EDUCATION, IN SOCIAL SERVICES, THE AGENCY HAS REDUCED HARDSHIP AND PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH HAVE ENABLED THE PALESTINIANS TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES DESPITE THEIR SUFFERING AND TRAGEDY. UNRWA HAS ENABLED THESE PEOPLE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN MANY AREAS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR. IN EDUCATION ALONE, OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING INSTRUCTION IN AGENCY SCHOOLS AND

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TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES. THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

SINCE THE AGENCY'S INCEPTION, CDA HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED UNRWA'S WORK THROUGH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOOD AID. LAST YEAR CDA CONTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE IN A MIXTURE OF FOOD AID AND CASH GRANTS. MY GOVT WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT. CDN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO MADE SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS WHICH I BELIEVE WILL ALSO CONTINUE.

DESPITE OUR OWN, AND THE SIMILAR EFFORTS OF MANY OTHERS, UNRWA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION REMAINS PRECARIOUS. BUDGETARY DEFICITS ARE COMING LARGER YEAR BY YEAR. THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL, IN HIS REPORT, HAD MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH IMPEDE FULFILLMENT OF HIS MANDATE. WE ARE THEREFORE CONCERNED, MR CHAIRMAN, THAT CERTAIN MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UN HAVE EITHER NEVER DONATED AT ALL TO UNRWA OR HAVE CONTRIBUTED VERY LITTLE. WE URGE THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR APPROACH.

UNRWA HAS BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH ITS RECURRING DEFICITS ONLY BY POSTPONING ESSENTIAL PROJECTS OR BY CUTTING BACK VALUABLE UNRWA PROGRAMS. THE EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN AFFECTED AND WILL BE FURTHER CUT IF SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE NOT/NOT MADE AVAILABLE. IF ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTL COMMUNITY DO NOT/NOT CONFRONT THIS ISSUE AND, AS A RESULT, THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES IS INTENSIFIED, WE WILL HAVE BEEN MOST REMISS IN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT UNRWA

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PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE LINES OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES REGISTERED WITH THE AGENCY. IT IS A CONSTANT DAILY REMINDER TO THE REFUGEES OF THE CONCERN OF THE INNATL COMMUNITY FOR THEM. WE ALL SHARE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO ASSIST THESE PEOPLE.

IT WAS WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, MR CHAIRMAN, THAT CDA LEARNED OF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLEDGES OF SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ, AND JPN TO THE WORK OF UNRWA. WE HOPE THESE EXAMPLES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS.

MEMBER STATES MUST BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE AGENCY'S RECURRING FINANCIAL NEEDS THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. ALTHOUGH THE VIEWS OF OUR GOVTS REGARDING THE POLITICAL CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY DIFFER, WE MUST ALL AGREE THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS REMAINS A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM ON A TRAGIC SCALE AND, AS SUCH, A RESPONSIBILITY NO/NO GOVT CAN, IN CONSCIENCE, IGNORE. WE CANNOT/NOT ALLOW POLITICAL DIFFERENCES TO DICTATE INTOLERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND SUFFERING FOR OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

FOR THEIR EFFORTS, AND SUCCESSES, UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES, WE OWE A CONSIDERABLE TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL AND HIS STAFF WHO, IN THE FACE OF FORMIDABLE DIFFICULTIES, CONTINUE TO PERFORM THEIR TASKS WITH DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT.

THE FACT THAT AFTER SO MANY YEARS THE PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIANS AS REFUGEES REMAIN IS THE RESULT OF POLITICAL FAILURE ON ALL OUR PARTS. THE INNATL COMMUNITY HAS NOT/NOT BEEN ABLE TO CREATE THE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SOLUTION OF THE ARAB-

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ISRAELI DISPUTE. WE HAVE TOO OFTEN PERMITTED RHETORIC AND EMOTION TO DOMINATE OUR DELIBERATIONS.

WE MUST SUPPORT CONCRETE STEPS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. SUCH A SOLUTION MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF ALL SIDES AND SAFEGUARD THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA, INCLUDING ISRAEL. AT THE SAME TIME, A MEANS MUST BE FOUND TO ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES POLITICALLY WITHIN A DEFINED TERRITORY. MY GOVT BELIEVES THAT THE PALESTINIANS, LIKE OTHER PEOPLE, ARE ENTITLED TO THIS. UNLESS ACCOUNT IS TAKEN OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, PEACE WILL NOT/NOT PREVAIL.

IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE GOALS OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, HOWEVER, THE PARTIES CONCERNED MUST BE PREPARED TO ABANDON EXTREME POSITIONS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CONSENSUS ON WHICH AN AGREEMENT, IF IT IS TO BE LASTING, MUST BE BASED. THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO EXAMINE ALL REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO THIS MOST DANGEROUS AND EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. NO/MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THIS MIGHT SEEM TO THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, EARLY AND FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, THE ATMOSPHERE OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE WILL BE EXACERBATED, AND THE CHANCES OF EVENTUALLY ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED.

ONLY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST PEACE CAN UNRWAS WORK BE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, THERE MUST BE UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES. TO PROMOTE THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY GOVT REPRESENTED HERE TODAY.  
UNQUOTE.

NOTES FOR AN INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR J. ALAN BEESLEY  
OF CANADA IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE OCTOBER 20, 1980.  
AGENDA ITEM 53: UNRWA

Mr. Chairman,

The Canadian Delegation welcomes the report of the Commissioner General as well as his remarks to us in this Committee. These set out in clear terms, the activities of UNRWA, its problems and its accomplishments.

Since its establishment in 1949, UNRWA has played an essential role in alleviating the misfortune of the Palestinian people caused by the wars of 1948 and 1967. UNRWA is an organization which gives substance to the humanitarian concerns of the world community for the plight of the Palestinians. In food aid, in medical care, in education, in social services, the Agency has reduced hardship and provided the opportunities which have enabled the Palestinians to sustain themselves despite their suffering and tragedy. UNRWA has enabled these people to make a significant contribution in many areas of human endeavour. In education alone, over three hundred thousand children are receiving instruction in Agency schools and technical training centres. This accomplishment speaks for itself.

Since the Agency's inception, Canada has been a major contributor. We have consistently supported UNRWA's work through financial contributions and food aid. Last year Canada contributed approximately five million dollars in assistance in a mixture of food aid and cash grants. My government will continue its support. Canadian non-governmental organizations have also made significant donations which I believe will also continue.

Despite our own, and the similar efforts of many others, UNRWA's financial situation remains precarious. Budgetary deficits are becoming larger year by year. The Commissioner General, in his report, had made abundantly clear the financial constraints which impede fulfillment of his mandate. We are therefore concerned, Mr. Chairman, that certain major contributors to the U.N. have either never donated at all to UNRWA or have contributed very little. We urge them to reconsider their approach.

UNRWA has been able to cope with its recurring deficits only by postponing essential projects or by cutting back valuable UNRWA programmes. The education system has been affected and will be further cut if sufficient funds are not made available. If all members of the international community do not confront this issue and, as a result, the plight of refugees is intensified, we will have been most remiss in our responsibilities. We should never forget that UNRWA plays a central role in the lives of the Palestinian

refugees registered with the Agency. It is a constant daily reminder to the refugees of the concern of the international community for them. We all share a moral obligation to assist these people.

It was with gratitude and appreciation, Mr. Chairman, that Canada learned of the recently announced pledges of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Japan to the work of UNRWA. We hope these examples will be followed by others.

Member states must be more responsive to the Agency's recurring financial needs than they have been in the past. Although the views of our governments regarding the political conflicts in the Middle East may differ, we must all agree that the plight of the Palestinians remains a humanitarian problem on a tragic scale and, as such, a responsibility no government can, in conscience, ignore. We cannot allow political differences to dictate intolerable living conditions and suffering for our fellow human beings.

For their efforts, and successes, under the most difficult of circumstances, we owe a considerable tribute to the Commissioner General and his staff who, in the face of formidable difficulties, continue to perform their tasks with dedication and commitment.

The fact that after so many years the problems of the Palestinians as refugees remain is the result of political failure on all our parts. The international community has not been able to create the positive environment which would permit the solution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. We have too often permitted rhetoric and emotion to dominate our deliberations.

We must support concrete steps to solve the problem. Such a solution must take account of the legitimate concerns of all sides and safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area, including Israel. At the same time, a means must be found to enable the Palestinians to express themselves politically within a defined territory. My government believes that the Palestinians, like other people, are entitled to this. Unless account is taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, peace will not prevail.

In order to realize the goals of justice and peace, however, the parties concerned must be prepared to abandon extreme positions and contribute to the achievement of a consensus on which an agreement, if it is to be lasting, must be based. They must be prepared to examine all reasonable solutions to this most dangerous and explosive issue. No matter how difficult this might seem to those directly involved, early and fundamental decisions must be made in the present negotiations. If these negotiations fail, the atmosphere of mistrust between the parties to the dispute will be exacerbated, and the chances of eventually achieving a comprehensive peace will be greatly reduced.

Only through the establishment of a just peace can UNRWA's work be brought to a successful conclusion. To achieve this objective, there must be understanding and dialogue between the parties. To promote this is the responsibility of every government represented here today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.