

HISTORY

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242

This Resolution is constantly referred to by the P.L.O. Palestinians and Arab States, to support a claim that Israel should withdraw from all the territories occupied as a result of the 1967 war.

Resolution 242 contains the following clauses:

"Termination of all claims or states of belligerency ..."

"... respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every State in the area ..."

"... (every State's) right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force".

"Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict".

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The Arab states must end the state of war initiated and maintained by them since 1948.

The Arab states must recognise Israel's right to exist. Israel is entitled to clearly defensible borders. This is not a privilege, but rather a right guaranteed by international law.

Israel should withdraw from some, not all, of the territories captured in the 1967 Six-Day War.

SOME COMMENTS

Significant political leaders have made the following comments on Resolution 242:

Arthur J. Goldberg. An author of U.N. Resolution 242. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (1965-1967):

"It calls for respect and acknowledgement of the sovereignty of every state in the area. Since Israel never denied the sovereignty of its neighbouring countries, this language obviously requires those countries to acknowledge Israel's sovereignty".

"The notable omissions in regard to withdrawal are the words "the" or "all" and "the June 5, 1967 lines"... the resolution speaks of withdrawal from occupied territories, without defining the extent of withdrawal". ("The meaning of 242" June 10, 1977)

Lord Caradon. An Author of U.N. Resolution 242. U.K. Ambassador to the United Nations (1964-1970):

"We didn't say there should be a withdrawal to the '67 line; we did not put the "the" in, we did

not say all the territories, deliberately ... We all knew that the boundaries of '67 were not drawn as permanent frontiers, they were a cease-fire line of a couple of decades earlier ... We did not say that the '67 boundaries must be forever". (Macneil/Lehrer Report. March 30, 1978)

Eugene V.Rostow. U.S.Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs (1966-1969):

"Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 ... rest on two principles. Israel may administer the territory until its Arab neighbours make peace; and when peace is made, Israel should withdraw to "secure and recognised borders", which need not be the same as the Armistice Demarcation Lines of 1949". ("The Truth about 242" November 5, 1990)

Lyndon B.Johnson. U.S.President (1963-1968)

"We are not the ones to say where other nations should draw lines between them that will assure each the greatest security. It is clear, however, that a return to the situation of June 4, 1967 will not bring peace". (September 10, 1968)