



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10.1.89

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

LORD PLUMB'S SPEECH TO THE KNESSET Official Visit to Israel 9th-13th January 1989

Speaking at the Kneset today (10 January, 14.00 hrs) Lord Plumb, President of the European Parliament, told Israeli deputies that the European Community is agreed on the principal elements of a solution to the conflict in the Middle East, namely: the right of Israel as well as other states in the region to peaceful existence within secure borders (UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338); Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967; the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. He also stressed that a Palestinian recognition and acceptance of the State of Israel must underpin any settlement.

"Israel", he said "must be enabled to live, prosper, and further develop within secure and recognised borders. Terrorism and violence have to be put aside for good".

Lord Plumb recalled the visit of Yasser Arafat to Strasbourg in September 1988 when the Parliament President told Mr Arafat to "get out of violence and get into negotiations", and he emphasized that the Community's support for any realisation of Palestinian rights can only result from Palestinian acceptance of Israel's rights.

Mentioning the Parliament's refusal for several months to ratify three protocols governing the EC-Israel relationship, Lord Plumb said that this had been a signal - Israel had been "judged by its own high democratic standards":

Lord Plumb continued:

"Peace ... must be sought. I am not suggesting for one moment the peace of capitulation. Nor the peace of sell-out. Nor the peace of imposition. But a peace which establishes a realistic, just and sustainable balance between the interests and the peoples involved in this region".

Turning to recent diplomatic moves in regard to the PLO, the Parliament President told the Knesset that now was the time to put the credibility of the PLO's new position to the test by applying it to "the refining fire of negotiations".

Lord Plumb also declared that the European Community had no intention of building a 'fortress Europe' in regard to its 1992 plans and praised the cooperation agreement between Israel and the Community which "will continue to bring us worthwhile results". He praised the industrial cooperation, covering joint projects in biotechnology, agrotechnology, communications and medical equipment; and the effectiveness of scientific cooperation, particularly in laser techniques, biological and neurological research.

The European Parliament-Knesset Joint Delegation is also currently meeting in Israel. The EP Delegation is led by Mr Sutra.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lionel Stanbrook - tel. (Brussels)
234.2884**