

Lester B. Pearson's role in the creation of the State of Israel

Comments by **Speaker Yuli Edelstein of the Knesset** on January 20, 2014 welcoming Prime Minister Stephen Harper to the Knesset:

“More than 66 years ago, on 29 November 1947, a historic decision was made that changed the reality of Middle East from one end to the other and had a profound influence on the history of the Modern Age. The United Nations General Assembly accepted the partition resolution, with the end of British Mandate over this country, and the establishment of a homeland for the Jewish people after two thousand years of exile and diaspora, named the State of Israel.

”Lester Pearson, who was then a diplomat, and later Prime Minister of Canada and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, had a huge influence on the “Multipolar consensus which led to the adoption of the partition plan. Through diplomatic means, Pearson made sure that every party would recognize that a solution would have to include the recognition of the right of the Jewish people to have a country, here in our historical Homeland. In his memoirs he wrote: "I never had a doubt that this problem is unsolvable without recognizing a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. For me it was always the center of the issue. A Jewish state in the land of Israel, a national home, it is something that I felt that it was a *sine qua non* for every arrangement".

“Sixty-five years later, Pearson's words still have meaning and validity. The basis for all of the arrangements and the heart of the issue is the recognition of the Jewish state in the land of Israel. This is the basis that is *sine qua non* for all arrangements.”

(Translation from the official Knesset transcript in Hebrew)

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