



THE GROUP OF 78
LE GROUPE DES 78

***Peace, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law:
Canada's Role in the Middle East***

The Group of 78 Annual Foreign Policy Conference
September 25 – 27, 2009

Cartier Place Suite Hotel, 180 Cooper St., Ottawa

For more information: www.group78.org

Conference Chair: Trevor Purvis

Friday September 25

6:30 p.m. Reception and cash bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Keynote speaker: Richard Falk

UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and Professor Emeritus of International Law, Princeton University

The Israel/Palestine Conflict: Why International Law Matters

Saturday September 26

8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Opening and Welcome

Welcome: Richard Harmston, Chair, Group of 78

Opening Remarks: Trevor Purvis, Conference Chair

8:45 a.m. Panel 1 *The Problem and its Contexts: Past and Present*

Nahla Abdo: *Their Independence, Our Nakba: The Palestinian Ordeal in a Historical Perspective*

Professor, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Carleton University

Trevor Purvis: *Toward a New World Disorder? Challenges for Middle-East Peace after George W. Bush*

Assistant Professor, Department of Law/Institute of Political Economy, Carleton University

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Report: *The Current Situation in the West Bank and Gaza*

Libby Davies, Richard Nadeau

MPs report on cross-party fact-finding trip to Jordan, West Bank and Gaza in August 2009.

11:30 a.m. Panel 2 *Perspectives on Canadian Foreign Policy in the Middle East*

Michael Byers: *Politics over policy: Canada's diminishing influence in the Middle East*
Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Political Science,
University of British Columbia

John Sigler
Professor Emeritus, Political Science, Carleton University

1:00 p.m. Lunch

Keynote Speaker: Stephen P. Cohen: *A Tragedy for both the Middle East and Western Society (Can Canada help to resolve this conflict?)*

Dr. Cohen is the president of the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development, has lectured at Yale and elsewhere. For over forty years, he has made 150 trips to the region, and attended the Madrid peace conference and other high-stakes meetings. He brought together Israel and the PLO officially for the first time in secret discussions in Europe in the mid eighties

2:30 p.m. Panel 3 *Perspectives on the Israel – Palestinian Crisis: Differences and Discussion between Canadian Jews and Arabs*

Jonathan Wouk: *Talking to, rather than at, Israelis & Jews*

Dr Wouk is a retired Jewish Chaplain and a Jewish scholar who has been actively involved with the Palestine-Israel issue for over forty years.

Monzer Zimmo: *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict - Options and Possibilities*

Mr Zimmo has been a tireless advocate for justice-based peace between Israelis and Palestinians for more than three decades, and an active member of the peace movement in Ottawa.

4:00 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. Panel 4 *Working Towards Peace: Essential First Steps*

Michael Lynk: *Back to the Future: Lessons from the Past on Israel/Palestine's Future*

Associate Dean, Academic and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario. Professor Lynk has worked with the UN in the Middle East and is a regular media commentator on political and legal developments in the region.

Michael Molloy: *Obama, the Middle East Peace Process and Canada*

Former Foreign Service Officer and Ambassador with extensive experience in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and Canadian Special Coordinator for the Peace Process; continues to work on "final status" issues, Jerusalem and refugees

5:45 p.m. Wrap- up

Sunday September 27

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Conference Plenary Discussion: Conclusions & Recommendations

10:30 a.m. Concluding Remarks - Conference Chair, Trevor Purvis

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Group of 78 Annual General Meeting