

We agree on the necessity of a permanent, just peace in the Middle East. The situation in the area forces us all to do the utmost to promote peace. On our part, we have responded to all the United Nations' resolutions and to all peaceful initiatives, even during the state of no-war no-peace which was imposed on the area. Since the 1973 events, we have spared no

effort to reach a permanent and just peace, through peaceful means... Unfortunately, we are still a long way from peace, because of the procrastinations, the manoeuvres and the inability to take decisions. This forces us all to work in order to spur on the wheel of peace, and to consolidate the exerted efforts, and not to allow any expansionist tendencies, manoeuvres, procrastinations or a freezing of the situation to hinder these efforts.

What has actually been realised on the path of peace is only a start towards a comprehensive solution through the Geneva Conference.

As for us, peace is our strategic target to which we are devoted and committed. I am sure you will agree with me that peace should be supported by justice. Without justice and equity, peace would be just a baseless, meaningless illusion which crumbles when faced by any test or challenge.

(From a speech at the luncheon given by **Chancellor Schmidt**,  
March 30, 1976)