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You know that we are passing through a bitter struggle for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East area; you are also aware of the close link between the area's security and stability in various parts of Europe, particularly those areas lying on the Mediterranean shore. Moreover, you know that we have taken wide strides towards bringing about peace in the region, and that we have determined that peace be granted every possible opportunity regardless of challenges and impediments. I am sure you agree that this just peace can only be effected on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the realisation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people who deserve the help and support of peace-loving peoples.

(From a speech at the dinner banquet given by the Italian President Leone Giovanni in Rome April 5, 1976)