

## ***Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question***

***Statement by Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, PR on October 4, 2000***

---

Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for October. We would also like to extend our congratulations to the Permanent Representative of Mali, Ambassador Moctar Ouane, for his splendid stewardship of the Council in its eventful last month.

Let me also thank you for calling this meeting and giving us the opportunity to speak on this very important issue. The Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement has made a statement yesterday on behalf of the Movement with which we associate ourselves. As we are deeply concerned at the recent developments, we thought it necessary also to share our sentiments with the Security Council. As many delegations have spoken yesterday and today and many more are to speak, I shall keep my statement short.

My Government is deeply concerned by the recent incidents of violence in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip and in other parts of the Palestinian National Authority and Israel. This had led to a most regrettable loss of lives and property. It has also vitiated the atmosphere for the Middle East Peace Process.

Issues involved in the Middle East Peace Process are of immense complexity: that is why the overriding need now is for restraint, avoidance of provocation and of shunning all such acts that could destabilise the process.

We have noted with increasing concern that the cessation of hostilities between the Palestinians and the Israelis was short-lived and hope that the effort will be redoubled to stop the violence, thus facilitating an early conclusion of the peace process. We remain convinced of the need for dialogue and peaceful negotiation for finding a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to all issues. We support the endeavours of the international community towards this objective.

Mr. President,

There had been considerable progress in the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Recent events should not be allowed to retard or delay the peace process for which the leadership of Palestine and Israel has striven so hard. We believe that, given the required will and determination, and a commitment to settle disputes peacefully, no odds are insurmountable; no goals too far. Violence has to be abjured. Diplomacy and statesmanship have to triumph. There is no alternative and no other way towards lasting peace.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)