

to join Canaan and live in a libertarian secular state where one could pursue one's culture and religion free from any state controls on personal conduct other than laws against using force.

### United, Yet Apart

UNLIKE the situation in Lebanon, the confederation would have everyone living together, yet under diverse authorities. In Lebanon, there was an attempt to have one government for everyone, with shared power, and that failed. The confederation would provide with separate governments for the Israelis and the Palestinians, with a confederation to keep the peace among them, to coordinate foreign policy, and to act as the common land trustee, collecting and disbursing rent.

It is important that individuals and the states would pay their land rent directly to the confederation, emphasising the fact that they were living with the other nations on common land. Yet the people would contract with a government of their choice for a number of years, to freely associate with the nation of their choice.

Since the contracts between the people and the states would be set for seven years, the residents of the Levant could switch nationalities periodically, providing a further check against oppression or corruption in any of the states and fostering competition among them for citizens.

Finally, unlike Lebanon, the equalisation of land ownership would provide for justice, combining the equalisation of land with individual possession and initiative of enterprise. In Canaan there would be no taxation or restriction on labour and capital, giving enterprise the full freedom to prosper and allowing various cultures to express themselves freely.

The confederation would serve as a model for other torn areas, such as Lebanon or Northern Ireland, wherever two or more groups are fighting for a common territory.

I'm not claiming that a confederation would be a Utopia, but that it would go a long way towards rectifying the injustices that have built up for centuries in Israel/Palestine.

*Land is the key to economic justice and peace, and until the equal right to the land is recognised, no peace plan can work.*

With economic justice in place, peaceful co-existence becomes, at least, possible.

## CANADA

# Premier battles to give 'outcasts' new land rights

Paul Knight  
writes from  
Toronto

THE PROCESS of State formation entailed the development of new property rights in land.

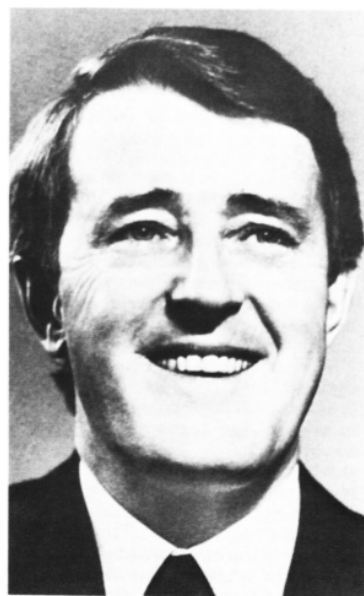
The indigenous peoples of colonial territories, in suffering a loss of independent control over their land, were transformed into outcasts in the emergent European-dominated society.

This then created the hatreds which now intermittently flare up all over the world in the form of civil wars.

The Canadian government's present attempt to resolve age-old injustices may provide countries like Australia with a model for preventive action.

It entails the integration of racial groups into a peaceful society based on political equality and cooperation, together with a devolution of power, rather than risk the disintegration of the system based on ethnic conflict.

PRIME MINISTER Brian Mulroney has come close to entrenching in the Constitution the right to self-government of



● Prime Minister Mulroney

the country's 500,000 aboriginal peoples.

At a summit meeting of the ten provincial premiers in April, Mr. Mulroney secured majority support for his action.

The group representing Treaty Indians – the Assembly of First Nations – opposed the wording of the amendment and the Inuit leaders wanted time to consult some Eskimo communities.

But Mr. Mulroney is confident that he will make progress.

He offered to personally lead negotiations on land claims for the Metis, the descendants of Indian women and French-Canadian fur traders.

Several premiers opposed the constitutional changes because they did not like the statement of entrenched rights to self-government being coupled with a constitutional obligation on provinces to negotiate specific rights.

**They feared a series of legal cases on jurisdiction, land and resources which could take policy-making out of their hands.**

But Mr. Mulroney, by profession a lawyer specialising in industrial relations, succeeded in finding a solution.

And Indian Affairs Minister David Combie says: "We are on the cutting edge of talks about aboriginal rights to self-government".

The diffusion of political power based on the right of direct access to natural resources ought to strengthen rather than weaken the political State.

But the essence of that strength is the system's ability to respond to the changing needs of people, while guaranteeing every individual's right of access to land.