



Operations Directorate (J3)
Israel Defense Forces (IDF)
Tel Aviv, Israel

2 June, 2020

For the Attention Of:

Lieutenant General Michael N. Rouleau
Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC)

General Rouleau,

I would like to firstly extend my best wishes for you, the Canadian Armed Forces, and the entire Canadian nation - may this spring and upcoming summer bring only health and prosperity, and know that our thoughts are with you, and the entire world, as we battle with COVID-19.

The IDF, and the state of Israel, sees Canada as an important partner with which we have many shared interests, regional and also for joint endeavors between our forces. I was looking forward to meeting you in person this past January and would like to take this opportunity to share some thought and insights with you.

As you know, the Middle East is once again going through challenging times. We are in a long-lasting battle to push back the Iranian entrenchment in the region, specifically military and proxy presence in Syria, and foil attempts to transfer weapons to Lebanon. The transfer of PGMs remains a major threat to regional stability. If this trend continues, Israel will be forced to act. The elimination of Solemani and the Iranian offensive preparations following it, emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy. We can see now that Iraq is a new focus point for Iranian staging of aggressive and malign activities. The current GEO-political climate, due to COVID-19 has many challenges and opportunities in this regard.

In this challenging region, international partners are not taken for granted. The state of Israel, and the IDF, remain committed to the safety of Canadian citizens, and especially to the peacekeeping forces in the area. Your continued commitment and contribution to the stability of the region is of vast importance – in the MFO, UNTSO, NATO components and more. Thank you.

We also look forward to exploring new avenues of cooperation between our forces. BG Anderson was here in November for our first Operational Simulation Summit, and we hope to work with him in this coming year. We are also closely working with CANSOFCOM and are enhancing our SOF cooperation. There is a bright future for our forces.

I would like to conclude by congratulating on your upcoming promotion! The IDF looks forward to continuing working with you, and with your successor.

All the best, and health,

Major General Aharon Haliva
Head of the Operations Directorate
Israel Defense Forces

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