

The View from Ottawa

In a dimly lit, garishly decorated lounge at the Millennium U.N. Plaza Hotel, Min. Jason Kenney is calmly stating his government's policy concerning a vote on Palestinian statehood. Yes, the Canadian government supports a two-state solution, but that depends on "the agreement of both parties." "Symbolic confrontation," he notes, "is not helpful."

This demure presentation is at odds with his firebrand reputation. The 43-year-old minister of citizenship, immigration, and multiculturalism is a rising star in the Conservative party, which in May formed its first majority government since 1993. An MP from Calgary Southeast, Alberta, Kenney orchestrated the party's electoral strategy, which focused on winning "naturally conservative" immigrants such as the Vietnamese and Poles.

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