

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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A speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations by Mr. Howard Green, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, on October 3, 1961.

Before I commence my statement, Mr. President, I should like to say how pleased Canadians are that you have been chosen unanimously as President of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Throughout the last few years we have learned to admire you for your friendliness and your great wisdom, and we believe that you have become one of the outstanding statesmen of the United Nations. We are pleased also because you represent Tunisia which, in its terms as a Member of this Organization, has taken such an active and important part. It is most fitting that a Tunisian should have been chosen President of the General Assembly.

We believe too, that it is appropriate that a representative of a nation of Africa should be President of the Assembly at the present time -- that continent which is now the centre of attention for the whole world, a continent whose sons are playing such an active and important role in these halls.

For all these reasons, Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you on behalf of Canada and to assure you that we shall help you in every way possible during your term of office. It is not an easy time to be President of the General Assembly, but we know that you will fulfil the expectations of your many, many friends.

Appointment of a new Secretary-General

At no other time in its sixteen years has the United Nations faced so many large issues, some of which, we believe, threaten its very survival. Many of these issues have been placed on the agenda, but the one which immediately confronts us results from the tragic death of the Secretary-General. Before we can deal effectively with any other question some interim arrangement must be made to enable the work of this Organization to be carried on.