

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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This is the first week of a new year, a time for resolution, retrospection, and speculation.

As for the first, I gave up making New Years' resolutions many years ago, deciding about 1923 that I shouldn't add to my burden of resolutions until I had succeeded in disposing of some of those solemnly taken previously. I am still trying to do that, but it may be that by 1960, say, I can conscientiously feel that the Statute of Limitations has come into operation, and that my inability to carry out old resolves should not prevent me from making and breaking new ones.

So far as retrospection is concerned, as I look back on 1953, my personal prayer is that never again will there be a year when I have to carry out the duties of Foreign Minister, as well as those of President of the United Nations Assembly, and also engage in the somewhat feverish activities that flow from participation in a Canadian general election.

Though 1953 was, for me, a little too crowded for comfort, it was one which, in international affairs, gave cause for some sober satisfaction, if none for jubilation or complacency.

It has been said recently that 1953 was a year of transition. Of course it was. Every year is a year of transition from the preceding one to the next one; in this case from 1952 to 1954. But in a serious and important sense, there may be something in this description. The general feeling during the year seemed to be one of waiting and wondering; waiting for some concrete move which would ease international tensions, and lighten the awful shadow of approaching atomic destruction; wondering whether Russian words and gestures really meant that such a move was coming and whether changes were taking place in the ruling circles of the U.S.S.R., that tight little group of autocrats, which would effect it.

The New Year, if I may move now into speculation, may clear up some of these wonderings. But let us not count too much on this; or expect too much from any particular meeting, at Berlin or Bermuda or Panmunjom; or read too much into plausible answers from the Kremlin to selected questions.