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A CONSTRUCTIVE UN SESSION

Statement by Mr. Heath Macquarrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons on January 24, 1963.

...I have had the honour of representing Canada at four General Assemblies of the United Nations. This past session, just concluded, struck me as one of the most constructive of these important international gatherings. It seemed that there was a diminution of tension, and lessening of power politics which sometimes makes difficult the day-to-day progress which is such an important part of an organization which endeavours to make progress on so many fronts.

I believe that in Canada the strain of cynicism is disappearing. We have had people, publicists and others, who believed the United Nations was more a talk shop, that nothing was accomplished, that there was a great disparity in power among the members, that there was not sufficient realism in its construction. I believe the accomplishments of the United Nations in recent years, and they have been enumerated by preceding speakers, have convinced Canadians and others that this great body is in truth the hope of the world as the idealists always said it was. The past session has seen the coming to fruition of a number of projects which had seemed to be discouraging.

One thing which caused great rejoicing, I think, was the confirmation of the Secretary-General in his office. This great Asian statesman has done a splendid job in one of the most sensitive and difficult posts which the world could convey upon any mortal man. Canada said, from the very beginning, that we were strongly in favour of U Thant's confirmation as Secretary-General. The Minister has referred to the success of the Congo operation and Canada's role in the Advisory Committee of the United Nations.

An Unforgettable Moment

I was in the United Nations at the time the confrontation between Mr. Zorin and Mr. Stevenson, an unforgettable moment of great tension. As has been pointed out, and something which should