



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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No. 66/40 THE UNITED NATIONS AS A POWER FOR WORLD PEACE

An Address to the United Nations General
Assembly in New York on September 23, 1966,
by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,
the Honourable Paul Martin.

...It is my intention this morning to discuss several areas of endeavour which in the opinion of the Delegation of Canada demand our particular attention if the United Nations is to develop as an influential force for peace in the world. I propose to say something about the Secretary-General and his office, the problems of establishing international peace and security, including peace keeping. I propose to speak to you about the war in Vietnam, about disarmament, about economic and social progress and about the grave problems in southern Africa.

I should like, first of all, to pay tribute to the leadership and example of the Secretary-General. He has done much to inspire our joint endeavours over the past five years. He has said that no man is indispensable in the function which he himself is performing with such distinction. But, notwithstanding the difficulties to which he has called attention, the guidance which he has provided to our work, his sense of responsibility, his qualities of compassion and understanding and, above all, his capacity to speak and to act in the name of mankind, are indispensable to the United Nations. I really fail to see at this time how they can be separated from the person of the Secretary-General. His departure would be a heavy blow.

May I say, too, that I strongly endorse the determination of the Secretary-General to maintain and develop his office as a vital reality within the United Nations system. In this, he is following the tradition established by Sir Eric Drummond in the days of the League of Nations and by his own predecessors in the United Nations.

Let me turn now to those tasks which require our collective understanding and goodwill: first, the general subject of peace keeping. A year has gone by since the General Assembly established a committee to study all aspects of peace keeping. A year has passed, too, since it was decided that the financial difficulties of the organization should be overcome by voluntary contributions from the whole membership. My Government regrets that on both these issues the past 12 months have seen little advance.