

Already the emergence of an independent Africa has had a considerable impact on the United Nations. The Congo crisis has thrust upon the world organization new responsibilities that offer the greatest challenge it has yet faced in the field of international peace-keeping. At the same time, the sudden influx of large numbers of new member states has imposed on the United Nations stresses and strains of which the Soviet bloc has attempted to take advantage, by means of a campaign of unwarranted attacks on the Secretariat, to bring about institutional changes that would undermine the United Nations as a source of independent, international authority. The resistance of the vast majority of members, old and new, to the Soviet assault offers reassuring proof that the world organization will not be allowed to fall under the dominant control of any one nation or group of nations. Changes there will doubtless have to be, to adjust to the greatly expanded membership, but this period of temporary dislocation will pass and the United Nations will emerge more representative of the diverse interests and forces in the world, and therefore stronger than before, but with its basic structure intact.

Of the many subjects dealt with in the ensuing report, none received more attention on the part of Canada during 1960 than disarmament. The record of achievement in this vital field was disappointing. Not only did the ten-nation talks collapse, but all subsequent attempts to bring about a resumption of negotiations proved in vain. Yet the considerations that led the major military powers to embark upon disarmament negotiations in 1960 will remain even more compelling in 1961 and after. Faced with the prospect of an ever-widening dissemination of weapons that threaten the survival of civilization as we know it, governments can and must seek the means to bring this growing menace under control. The time for a workable disarmament agreement is now, and Canada will continue to press towards that end.

I wish to extend to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and to all members of the Department, whether serving in Ottawa or abroad, my appreciation of their devoted contribution during the year to the promotion and protection of Canadian interests abroad and to the peaceful settlement of international problems.

HOWARD GREEN,
Secretary of State for External Affairs.

March 8, 1961.