

Pursuit of happiness through the pursuit of peace

Excerpts follow from the Prime Minister's new year message:

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"As we stand on the threshold of this new year, I propose that we work together towards that timeless goal of people of good will: the pursuit of happiness through the pursuit of peace, both here at home and in the world at large.

"That goal demands a shared commitment to disarmament, both in the military sense, and in the realm of the human spirit.



United Nations photo by Saw Lwin

"Let this day be one of disarmament of hearts and minds." — Mr. Tudeau.

"Restraint in the build-up of military armaments is certainly necessary in our troubled world. But despite negotiations on the limitation of strategic arms, never has there been such a feverish search for new and more sophisticated weapons.

"The point has been reached where even the peaceful must arm themselves so that their freedom will not be overwhelmed by the brutal force of totalitarian regimes.

"We should never forget, however, that the arms race feeds upon mistrust, and that the conquest of peace demands the conquest of hearts and minds. That is true for the world at large, and equally true for us in Canada.

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"The prejudices that French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians harbour against one another, the insecurity and

lack of generosity in our treatment of immigrants, the resentment felt by the West and the Atlantic region towards the central provinces, and the frustration and sense of injustice felt by the poor towards the rich — all these feelings may explode at a time when the future of the country is being called into question.

An opportunity to rebuild

"But what is now a potential danger can become a source of hope. For if we refuse to imprison ourselves in the past, and if we realize that social, economic or cultural injustice will not disappear without a real effort on our part, then we will have every reason to hope. And the unity crisis which we are now experiencing will become an inspiring challenge, an opportunity to rebuild our federation on the renewed foundation of justice and brotherhood.

"As this new year dawns, I commit myself, with all of you, to help build this new Canada. And as a foretaste of the kind of country we want to build together, I propose that we all emulate a practice which was common in the Middle Ages, when a Truce of God was declared on new year's day.

"Today, let there be no separatists or federalists, no French-Canadians, English-Canadians, native Canadians or new Canadians. Let there just be Canadians. Let this day be one of disarmament of hearts and minds. Despite our differences in language, colour, religion and political opinions, let us discover ourselves as we really are: men, women and children in search of the same happiness and the same peace of mind."

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Consumer prices

The All-items Consumer Price Index for Canada (1971=100) increased by 0.8 per cent from 179.3 in October last year to 180.8 in November. As a result, the 12-month rise between November 1977 and November 1978 stood at 8.8 per cent, up slightly from the 8.7 per cent registered in the previous month. Higher transportation charges, particularly those for new automobiles, were a large factor in the over-all CPI rise, having been responsible for about one-half of the increase. As a result, the index for all items excluding food advanced by 0.9 per cent between October and November. Between Novem-

ber 1977 and November 1978, the index for all items excluding food advanced by 6.8 per cent.

Food prices registered a moderate 0.3 percent rise between October and November. The increase was largely attributable to higher prices for restaurant meals. The food-at-home index rose by 0.1 per cent.

Between November 1977 and November 1978, the price level for goods increased by 10.3 per cent while that for services rose by 6.6 per cent.

Canadians quit Iran

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced on January 5 the completion of an airlift in which Canadians in the Caspian area of Iran, who were unable to leave by commercial means, were evacuated to Ankara, Turkey, by Canadian Forces Hercules aircraft. The Canadian Government brought out 266 Canadians and 140 nationals of other countries from December 31, 1978 to January 5.

The decision to evacuate the Canadians by aircraft was taken following consultations with the Canadian Ambassador to Turkey, C.J. Marshall. Shortly afterward, the Government received a formal request for assistance from the Stadler Hurter (Montreal) and Dillingham International (Vancouver) companies which were operating in northern Iran.



Canadian Ambassador C.J. Marshall (centre) and embassy staff help civilians arriving by Hercules at Ankara airport.

Canadian Forces photo by Sgt. J. Rodger