

During the past few months at the session of the United Nations General Assembly which has just concluded, problems arising in the southern part of Africa have claimed a good deal of attention. The racial tensions generated there present a difficult challenge to the United Nations.

Canada has joined with the great majority of member nations in asserting United Nations responsibilities for South West Africa. We have strongly supported the role of the Commonwealth in the Rhodesian situation and have acted vigorously in accordance with United Nations resolutions on the subject. On both issues, Canada will continue to contribute to responsible and broadly supported measures intended to achieve justice and alleviate tension.

We hope very strongly that there will be progress early in the year towards a universal non-proliferation treaty. We have stressed to the major powers involved the importance we attach to achieving agreement on such a treaty.

I am hopeful after discussions with both United States and Soviet Union leaders that realization of the common interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons will lead to early agreement. It would be an important achievement for world peace if agreement could be reached in this field and with respect to another current matter of great importance, that is, a comprehensive test ban. It is essential in both areas to resume the movement toward agreement on specific matters of arms control which began in 1963.

In 1967 Canada will assume a seat on the United Nations Security Council. I trust that we shall make a contribution to world security in that capacity in keeping with our contribution over the years to peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations in many parts of the world. We have made a particular effort at the 1966 session of the General Assembly to ensure that some progress was made in improving financing procedures for peacekeeping operations. We hope that both with respect to financing and with respect to the technical ability to meet peacekeeping responsibilities, the United Nations will be strengthened in the months ahead.

Finally I need hardly remind many of you to whom this annual message is directed that economic development and the relief of the most pressing problems of food shortages and health are just as important as international political problems. Canada has made a number of important changes in its economic assistance programmes to bring the total allocations to about \$300 million and to make the terms and nature of our aid as helpful as possible to the developing nations. It will continue this process of expansion and improvement in the coming year.

To all who hear this message, I bring the greetings and goodwill of Canadians, and our assurances of positive action in an interdependent world to assure peace and well-being for all members of the world community.