



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

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## THE UNITED NATIONS - SURVIVAL AND CHALLENGE

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the University Model United Nations, Montreal, February 9, 1966.

... I have been asked to speak to you on the general theme for your meetings -- "The United Nations -- Survival and Challenge". With public attention focused on proceedings in the Security Council in the past week, this is a theme which is particularly timely and important. The situation in Vietnam brings before the world the issues of war and peace which were of fundamental importance in the thinking of those who drafted the United Nations Charter in 1945. It reveals, in a particularly dramatic fashion, the problems preventing the proper functioning of the world organization.

It has, of course, been the desire of the Canadian Government that the United Nations would be able to act effectively to end the conflict in Vietnam. At the opening of the General Assembly session last September, I pointed out:

"Speaking for Canadians, I can say that it is a matter of deep concern that the United Nations has been prevented from effective action in Vietnam.... It is the duty of this Assembly to express clearly and forcefully the collective conviction of the United Nations that the war in Vietnam must be brought to a negotiated settlement."

In Parliament last week I stated that I wished that "there was a role for the United Nations, and that there was a greater opportunity for the Secretary-General to play even a more productive role in the matter than he has been able to play in spite of his heroic efforts".

We have welcomed the United Nations action, in bringing the matter before the Security Council, although we realize fully the major obstacles which at present prevent that agency from acting effectively. I hope that the attention that has been focused on United Nations involvement in this crisis will lead to renewed efforts to find a basis for the negotiation which is the only practicable means of settling this tragic war. I think that we are all increasingly aware of the validity of the observation made by U Thant in his annual report last summer, that "both the Vietnam situation and the disarmament impasse point once again to the imperative need for the United Nations to achieve universality of membership as soon as possible".