



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

A review of international developments in 1957 by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, as broadcast on the International Service of the CBC.

The year 1957, now coming to a close, has seen significant changes both in Canada and abroad.

Outside Canada, the deep conflict between the Communist world and the Western nations continued this year to cloud international relations. But something new has occurred in this context. To the threatening but now familiar rumblings of nuclear thunder, Soviet science has recently added some ominous bolts of lightning. This spectacular evidence of Russian progress in the field of guided missiles and rocket propulsion does not represent, however, an overwhelming, or lasting or even a matching military advantage. But it has brought closer to all of us, by a giant stride, the grim problem of human survival in the nuclear age.

As I review briefly the highlights of our external relations and activities during 1957, it is with the awareness that there has been a change in the international weather, of incalculable consequence.

During the past year, Canada has continued to play an important role in the Commonwealth as in the affairs of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the other various organizations to which Canada adheres.

United Nations

The United Nations represents today a great hope for peace, and its most useful mission lies perhaps in the field of discussion and reconciliation of ideas and interests: in providing a forum where 82 nations can sit down together and discuss face to face their differences and their agreements. As a microcosm of an imperfect world, the United Nations reflects the ambitions and the conflicts that often divide its members; but its successes also have been noteworthy.