

APPENDIX

SPEECHES AT UNITED NATIONS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

Statement by the Honourable Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, in the General Debate at the 17th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, September 25, 1962

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to join with others in offering you congratulations on your election to the presidency of the general assembly. Your outstanding qualifications and wide experience in diplomacy, international law and in United Nations affairs will, I know, prove to be of great value at this important session.

Your appointment is a well deserved tribute to you and also to your country, Pakistan. Last week, the people of Canada were delighted to receive the President of Pakistan as a distinguished and highly respected visitor. His visit served to re-emphasize the excellent relations which Pakistan and Canada have always enjoyed.

I also wish to extend a very warm welcome to the four new members who were admitted to the United Nations last week. In Ruanda and Burundai the United Nations played an important role in bringing about the transition from trusteeship to independence. Canada had the honour of serving on one of the United Nations commissions during the preparatory period. Aided by a common bond of language, we now look forward to developing with these two countries the same close relationship which links Canada with the other French speaking countries of Africa.

The achievement of independence by Jamaica and by Trinidad and Tobago is an event of special significance and of interest for Canada not only because of our commonwealth association but also because of the historic ties which have existed for centuries between Canadians and the people of the West Indies. I am confident that these good neighbours of ours—the first new members incidentally from the western hemisphere—have a valuable contribution to make to the United Nations.

Last year when I spoke in the general debate, the United Nations was facing many grave issues, some of which actually threatened its survival. The atmosphere in the assembly as those representatives present today who were here a year ago will remember, was one of tension and anxiety. The whole future was uncertain—the future of this organization and the future of the world.

May I suggest that the events of the past twelve months have not dispelled all the difficulties; but neither have they fulfilled the pessimistic prophecies of a year ago. We are living in a world when it pays to be optimistic. I do not believe that the pessimists will ever settle the problems that face the world and I believe that clearly, in this session of the general assembly we have a good deal more reason for hope than a year ago.

Laos

Here I should like to point out that there have been some gains in the complex international endeavour to strengthen the peace. For example, at the beginning of 1962 the situation in Laos seemed far from settled. By July international agreements providing for a unified, independent and neutral Laos had been signed in Geneva by the 14 nations attending that conference. Those nations included governments which did not recognize each other but which shared a common determination to face reality and find a solution. The result was a positive step toward peace and stability in southeast Asia.

Canada was one of the signatories of the Laos agreements and as a member of the international commission Canada was charged, along with India as chairman and Poland, with the task of seeing that the agreements are carried out. We intend to fulfil these responsibilities with fairness and diligence. I emphasize, however, that ultimate success in Laos will depend on the continuing support and co-operation of all the governments concerned. I think we can make Laos an example for the settlement of problems in other parts of the world.

A significant factor in the successful negotiations on Laos was the businesslike procedure evolved. In particular, the device of co-chairmanship proved its worth and the United Kingdom and the Soviet union deserve much of the credit for the result. I pay tribute to them today for their work as co-chairmen of that conference.

Disarmament

There is, furthermore, another area in which there has been some progress. After