



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 63/20 URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P., in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on October 18, 1963.

Mr. Chairmans:

It is a great pleasure for me again to have the opportunity of addressing the First Committee as the representative of Canada, and to meet colleagues with whom I worked in the past on the many difficult problems with which this Committee has been faced. None of these problems, as all of us know so well, is of greater import for the future of the world than the problem of disarmament - the problem of how we can make the transition from the arms race and the cold war to peace and security guaranteed to all under the aegis of this organization.

Canada has participated in the negotiations on disarmament since their beginning in the United Nations. It is a responsibility which, I can assure the Committee, we regard as of paramount importance.

For the first time since this item on the suspension of nuclear tests was inscribed we meet in a brightening atmosphere. We have been encouraged by the signature of the partial nuclear test ban treaty by the three great nuclear powers and by more than one hundred other states.

Tribute must be paid, first, to the three nuclear powers who have concluded the first significant treaty restricting the development of armaments since World War II; second, to the non-aligned members of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference whose tireless efforts contributed greatly to this accord; and third, to all the other members of the United Nations which over the years have continually focussed international attention on the urgency and importance of ending all tests. We all have some reason to hope that the test-ban agreement of August 5 signifies, as the distinguished representative of Tunisia said in Plenary Session, "an irreversible trend towards disarmament and peace."

For many years the major powers have talked about disarmament, but many countries, including ourselves, have believed that these discussions would remain unrealistic so long as the nuclear powers were unable to take the first essential step of stopping the development of nuclear weapons. The limited test-ban is therefore of particular significance. It provides reassurance to the