PRESS RELEASE



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YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PAUL MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, BROADCAST BY THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OF THE CBC

I am glad to have the opportunity provided each year by the International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to send a message overseas. My best wishes go to Canadians living abroad and to the many friends of Canada, in official and private life, with whom we have worked in good causes during the year.

Our major concern throughout the year has continued to be that of achieving or maintaining peace in all parts of the world. We have seen some progress, or hope of progress in the broad discussions of peacekeeping and disarmament at the United Nations and in the restraint and relative lack of tension in great power relations, particularly in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. At the same time we have been confronted with particular conflicts, or threats of conflict, in different parts of the world which have given us serious concern.

The dispute within the United Nations over the suspension of voting rights of those member nations which had not paid their share of peacekeeping costs was solved, at least temporarily, by decisions on the part of other members not to force the voting issue to a final confrontation at the risk of breaking up the Organization. The General Assembly was able therefore to meet and