

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

o. 75

DO NOT PUBLISH BEFORE
DECEMBER 31, 1966

ANNUAL YEAR-END MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN

My chief hope as we enter the New Year is that we shall see peace achieved in Vietnam before many months are over. In the past year many initiatives have been taken to bring to an end a war beneficial to no nation and tragic for the Vietnamese people.

Canada has used its own channels of contact with those immediately involved in the conflict in an effort to find out how negotiations might start. We have also held consultations on the problem of the Vietnam conflict with other nations which have a special interest in Vietnam either because of membership in the International Control Commission or responsibility for arrangements made in Geneva in 1954. We have done whatever we could within the Commission to make the basic facts of the Vietnam situation known to the world. We have been actively engaged in exploring ways in which we and others might contribute to any possible limitation of the fighting. We have also done what we could to encourage first steps being taken towards an eventual negotiation.

I regret that the efforts which we, and so many other nations have been making have not yet borne fruit. I believe however that this is no reason for abandoning our endeavours in search of the kind of solution we all know must ultimately come about. For its part, Canada stands pledged to an unremitting effort to help bring about peace.

I believe that some improvements in relations between Western nations and the nations of Eastern Europe will have an important effect on the international atmosphere in the coming year. In my visits to Poland and the Soviet Union in November, I found a close interest on the part of the two Governments concerned in developing closer relations with Canada and in limiting dangerous tensions in the world.

Those who are concerned to achieve peace and stability in South East Asia cannot lose sight of the need to bring Mainland China out of its increasing isolation. This requires a solution to the problem of Chinese representation in the United Nations. Canada made its own views clear last month at the United Nations General Assembly when we called for a new and more flexible approach which would allow representatives of the governments in both Taipei and Mainland China to participate in the work of the United Nations.