

- 1961 November  
(cont.)
- Canada takes lead at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference in sponsoring resolution to establish World Food Programme (WFP), originally as experimental three-year program. WFP starts in 1963. Surplus grain and dairy products in exporting countries are used for emergency food needs, school feeding and food-for-work development projects (see Shefrin and Lankester contributions).
- December 9
- Tanganyika under Julius Nyerere attains independence, the first country in East and Central Africa group.
- 1962 March
- Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC) meets for first time in Geneva. Previously a committee of 10 nations, 8 added from developing countries. ENDC given task of working out agreement on complete and general disarmament, after U.S. and Soviet Union had agreed on statement of principles. Canada's External Affairs Minister Howard Green active in disarmament talks in Geneva and New York.
- October
- Cuban missile crisis. After deadlock in the Security Council, U Thant calls for standstill on high seas. Both superpowers accept, then make fuller agreement bilaterally. Thant's visit to Cuba for verification purposes a failure.
- To solve dispute between Netherlands and Indonesia over West Irian, mediator Ellsworth Bunker recommends UN takeover for limited period. UN Temporary Executive Authority administers territory from October 1962 to May 1963, before handover to Indonesia on promise to hold "act of free choice" in 1969 by which Papuans were to decide to stay with Indonesia or to sever ties.
- 1963 June
- Hot-Line Agreement signed between superpowers to improve communications during times of tension. Soon followed by signing of Partial Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting nuclear tests in the atmosphere, under water or in outer space.
- August
- Security Council calls for voluntary arms embargo against South Africa.
- December
- Fighting between Greek and Turkish irregulars on Cyprus, which became independent in 1960, escalates when Turkish warships sail, regular troops join fighting and Turkish ministers leave Makarios government. British troops secure local cease-fires while Security Council holds brief, inconclusive meeting.