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FOREWORD

This volume of *Canada and the United Nations* reviews the work of the United Nations and the Department of External Affairs during 1960. One of the most important events of the period was the admission of seventeen new members to the Organization, sixteen of which were developing countries. These new members have shown that they have a valuable contribution to make in the search for solutions to world problems. The Organization can be expected to play an increasingly important role in the future. Canada shares with them the common desire to see the United Nations strengthened as an instrument for peace and security, and for economic and social progress.

The Organization's ability to continue to be an effective international body will depend on the support and cooperation of its members. The United Nations was not able to deal with the Congo problem because of the other complex issues with which it was faced, particularly the Congo situation, colonialism and disarmament. The political climate in which the United Nations had to operate, moreover, made the task exceptionally difficult. The year started off with promise for constructive relations between the East and West, but saw a rapid deterioration of these relations with the failure of the Paris Conference on Disarmament. The breakdown of the Chinese disarmament negotiations in July, the Congo crisis which developed shortly after the emergence of that country as an independent state on June 30, 1960, added a further complication to the increasingly difficult world situation.

At a time when tension and strain in international relations demanded a strengthening of the United Nations as an instrument for peaceful settlement of differences, the U.S.S.R. launched an attack against the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General's administration over the conduct of the Congo operations; also it intensified its attack on the colonial powers in an effort to divide members and to establish itself as the champion and friend of newly-independent and emerging states. While the impact of the campaign in the first part of the year was not as severe as in previous years, the sharp rise in the price of oil and the Soviet-Cuban relationship have added to the difficulties. Nevertheless, the Organization will continue to play a vital role in the future.

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