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CANADA AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The following is a partial text of a speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, on February 17, to the Faculty of Law of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario:

...Today I propose to speak in particular of Canada's role as a member of the Security Council. At the last session of the General Assembly, Canada was elected to the Security Council for the third time in 19 years, and will serve during 1967 and 1968.

Election to the Council is based, according to the United Nations Charter, on "the contribution of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the organization", as well as on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. It is true that the candidates for election to the Council are now chosen on the basis of geographical groupings, but the fact remains that the contribution a country can make to the work of the United Nations is an important factor in each group's choice of candidates. For example, it is not without significance that the other candidates elected with Canada this year were India, Brazil, Denmark and Ethiopia — all nations which have played an important part in the activities of the United Nations.

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The Security Council has not always lived up to the high hopes which were placed in it at San Francisco 22 years ago. As you know, some degree of co-operation between the great powers is essential if the Council is to carry out its Charter function of primary responsibility for the maintenance of inter-

national peace and security. But for many years the suspicions and animosities which clouded relations between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. reduced the Council to virtual paralysis. In its early years, for example, the Council used to hold more than 100 meetings annually. In the decade of the Fifties, it never held more than 50 meetings annually, and in 1959, when Canada was last on the Council, it held only five meetings. Since 1960, it has shown more vigour. It has been especially successful in limiting and then stopping the outbreaks of violence in Kashmir and Cyprus.

What are the issues which are likely to come before the Council in the months ahead? The trouble spots are obvious. The situation in the Middle East, the situation in Rhodesia, the situation in Southeast Asia, the question of South Africa's racial policies, the continuing dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the unresolved problem of the relations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots — these are the kinds of situation or dispute which immediately come to mind.

Last year the Council spent 40 per cent of its time on the question of Israel's relations with Syria and Jordan, and a quarter of its time on the situation in Rhodesia. The year before it spent much of its time dealing with the situation in Kashmir and the situation in the Dominican Republic, but was not required to consider the situation in the Middle East at all. So to some extent the Council is a prisoner of events.

Over 60 items remain on the Security Council's agenda and all are potentially relevant to the maintenance of international peace and security, even though many of them are dormant. To take the most