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## THE UNITED NATIONS CRISIS

Address by the Honourable Paul Martin,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
to the Vancouver Institute, February 20, 1965.

It would be easy, for anyone contemplating the course of events from day to day, to look upon the world in which we live as one in which crisis succeeds crisis. I have myself tried to resist this tendency for two reasons. First, because it is important to distinguish crisis from change. It is inevitable, I think, that a period in which a very large number of new nations have been emerging, in which traditional societies are being compelled to make the transition to modern status and modern structure, in which science and technology are being mobilized on a vast scale in support of man's efforts to control his environment and make it more amenable -- that such a period should be one of change. I believe it would be wrong for us to be daunted by the prospect of change or to be drawn to conclude that all change is necessarily critical.

My second reason for hesitating to apply the term "crisis" indiscriminately to the trends and developments to which Canadian foreign policy must be responsive is because I am confident, in my own mind, that the direction in which matters have been evolving over the past two decades has, on the whole, been right and beneficial. I say this because, over that period, we have come, over an increasingly wide area, to organize our affairs in common. We have come to recognize and accept the implications of our interdependence. And we have created the institutions that enable us to give substance and meaning to the conception of a world community. Among these the United Nations occupies, of course, a vital place.

I put these reflections before you today because they provide the setting for what I would like to say about the really critical situation which I think we have now reached in the affairs of the United Nations. In using the term "critical" in this context, I do so advisedly and in the sense of Mr. Adlai Stevenson's memorable speech to the General Assembly last month in which he said:

"We have reached a fork in the road ahead of this organization -- and thus in our search for world order and our journey toward a wider community."