

"And the meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers was in itself an encouraging event, with leaders from 16 countries, of a variety of races, religions and backgrounds, sitting round a table in a brotherhood of nations that share a common devotion to peace and belief in the dignity of the individual.

"Even the Cuban crisis brought some encouraging results in that it gave us all a very clear realization of the importance of keeping the peace - and of the value of the United Nations as a forum for working out settlements, even between the great nuclear powers.

"So I suggest that, taken all in all, 1962 was quite a good year. Now, what about 1963, the new year we are entering?

**A GOOD YEAR AHEAD?**

"I believe that there are good reasons for hoping that this new year will be considerably better than 1962; that people everywhere have a stronger desire for peace; that the United Nations, that great world organization, will prove steadily more effective in focusing attention on this universal desire for peace; and that the leaders of nations, great and small, will be more responsive to world opinion because the world came so near the brink of disorder in 1962.

"If you and I determine that we shall do our best to promote understanding among the people with whom we come in contact and between the nations, we can play an effective part in making 1963 the finest year mankind has ever known."

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**CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK, 1963**

The President of the Canadian Construction Association has predicted a \$7.5 billion construction programme for Canada this year. Hugh R. Montgomery of Montreal said in a year-end message: "The construction industry is looking for a slightly larger programme than the \$7.4 billion programme estimated to have been achieved in 1962. It will, therefore, keep its position as Canada's largest industry and employer. The equivalent of 570,000 year-round jobs on-site are required to carry out this programme, plus an even larger work force off-site to produce, sell and transport the necessary construction materials and equipment".

**SLOWER RATE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The CCA president added that, although the construction programme was the backbone of the economy and accounted for nearly one-fifth of the gross national product, the rate of economic expansion in Canada, as reflected by the volume of construction, had levelled off since 1957 and, on a *per capita* basis, was actually declining. "With unemployment still a serious national problem," he said, "larger construction programmes are needed to provide more jobs and the physical means for a quickened economic expansion. The construction

industry is largely a service industry. In other words, we construct facilities for the use of others. Our annual volume therefore reflects the state of economic well-being and development of Canada."

Mr. Montgomery observed that, during the previous six years, the value of the construction programme had averaged about \$7 billion annually. "This is a remarkable achievement," he said, "but stability is not enough. Furthermore, within this total the amount of industrial construction has dropped a good deal. This is very serious, since it is through an expansion in this category that there lies the main scope for Canada to compete successfully in home and foreign markets and to provide additional continuing employment. The CCA has repeatedly urged our senior governments to make use of their taxation powers as a tool to encourage private industry to modernize and to expand."

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**RCN WINS COMMONWEALTH TROPHY**

The 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, stationed at London, Ontario, has won the Duke of Edinburgh trophy in a Commonwealth-wide competition. Word was received recently from the Duke's equerry in London, England, that the Canadian battalion had placed first, followed by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and the 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

The trophy is competed for annually by all regiments in the Commonwealth that have the Duke of Edinburgh as their Colonel-in-Chief. Small-arms efficiency and physical standards are the criteria for the competition.

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**CANADA RECOGNIZES YEMEN**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced on December 21 that recognition had been accorded by the Canadian Government to the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic. Recognition was conveyed in a letter addressed to the Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Yemen Arab Republic, Dr. Rahman al-Baydani. The text of the letter is as follows:

"Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to me from New York on October 20 last, by Mr. Mohsin al-Aini, regarding the establishment of the Yemen Arab Republic.

I express the hope that relations between our two countries will remain friendly and mutually beneficial and that co-operation between our Governments in our national and international relationships will be further broadened and developed.

Howard C. Green."