

UN DAY MESSAGE TO U THANT

The following message was sent by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, on United Nations Day, October 24:

On this anniversary of the United Nations, I wish to extend my warm wishes and those of the Canadian Government and people to you and all the staff members of the United Nations system of organizations.

Anniversaries of every kind are traditionally a time for congratulation, but they should also be the occasion of thoughtful reflection. It would be illusory to imagine that the nations of the world, gathered under the United Nations do not confront problems as difficult as they have ever faced. But it would be equally untrue, and a disservice to the record of the past, to claim that nothing has been achieved. The United Nations is too easily blamed for the words and actions of its members.

It is through the United Nations that the goals before mankind have been imprinted on the conscience of the world. The United Nations, having revealed

the immensity of the task, is then unjustly held responsible for failing to tackle it with unreserved vigour. But the fault lies not in the United Nations, which is but the creation of its members. To move forward in a comprehensive attack on the roots of conflict, while preventing or subduing its armed expression, the United Nations must receive not only on its anniversary, but every day of the year, fresh infusions of creative thought and action from its member states. Some encouragement may be gained from what has been accomplished so far; we must now transform that encouragement into action, and give our hopes for "better standards of life in larger freedom" concrete form.

In this imperative endeavour, I wish to affirm on behalf of the Canadian Government and people our continuing support for the United Nations as it begins its twenty-third year. In doing so, I wish also to express once again Canada's appreciation of your distinguished contribution as Secretary-General and to renew our pledge to the principles and purposes of the Charter.

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KEY NOVA SCOTIA FIRM TO CLOSE

The Sydney, Nova Scotia, steel mill of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation will close down before the end of April 1968. The mainstay of the Cape Breton Island city, and a key industry for the province, the big mill today employs 3,200 workers and has a payroll of over \$23,500,000. The closely allied Cape Breton coal industry, another important employer of Cape Breton labour, will be "phased out" of operation over the next 15 years.

Neither Doseco nor Hawkey Siddeley Canada Ltd., which owns 77 per cent of the Corporation, can continue, it is announced, to absorb the losses now being incurred - \$4,300,000 (before income tax adjustments) in 1966 and \$6,400,000 during the first half of this year. These losses have been attributed to high production costs and an uneconomic location.

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CANADA-SOVIET FISHERIES

Fisheries discussions begun earlier this year when Canadian Fisheries Minister, H.J. Robichaud, was in Moscow were resumed recently when the Minister of Fisheries of the U.S.S.R., A.A. Ishkov, visited Canada. The talks were concerned mainly with conservation and with problems caused by the close proximity of Canadian and Russian vessels during fishing operations, particularly in the North Pacific. The two Ministers agreed that discussions between fishery administrators and scientists of both countries should begin within a few months with a view to preparing a draft agreement.

In the North Atlantic, co-operative research is in progress on fisheries of interest to Canada and the Soviet Union, under the International Commission

for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. In the North Pacific, on the other hand, there are no formal agreements for co-operation in the investigation, development or management of sea fisheries other than those for marine mammals. To fill this need, it was agreed that Canadian and Russian administrators and scientists should meet to exchange statistics, data and publications on commercial fisheries and to study the creation of co-operatives in oceanography, marine biology and resource development.

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PENSIONS INCREASE

Increases in old age security pensions, guaranteed income supplement payments and in benefits and contributions under the Canada Pension Plan were announced recently by Health and Welfare Minister Allan J. MacEachen and Revenue Minister E.J. Benson.

Mr. MacEachen said that the pension index had increased from 1967 to 1968 by the 2 percent maximum allowed by the legislation. He pointed out that a most important principle had been established by linking pension payments to the pension index.

"We are all aware of the difficulties faced by persons who must rely on fixed incomes for their support as they watch the purchasing power of their fixed dollars dwindle over the years," said Mr. MacEachen. "Now, for the first time, beginning in January 1968, we have the means to up-date pensions and benefits in pay under the Old Age Security Act and the Canada Pension Plan to reflect increases in the cost of living. This is done by multiplying a benefit or a pension by the ratio of the