

PRESS RELEASE



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TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR UNITED NATIONS

The following is the text of a message sent by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of United Nations Day, October 24.

"On behalf of the Canadian government and people I wish to express my warm good wishes to you and to all staff members of the United Nations family of organizations on the occasion of United Nations day.

"At the age of twenty-one the United Nations has reached a new stage in its development. It is more than just a forum for conference diplomacy on the grand scale; although it has yet to fulfil all the hopes held for it by peoples and governments throughout the world, the United Nations is increasingly important to its members as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in achieving common ends. The attainment of those goals: peace and security for all nations, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the promotion of economic and social development, rests on an age-old dream of humanity - the possibility of cooperation for peaceful purposes between the nations of the world. It was for this that the United Nations was created, and it is still the test by which our progress must be measured: 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'.

"Anniversaries are times that give us cause for contemplation and retrospection. They are also times for facing up to facts and to the problems which hamper and in some cases stultify the effectiveness of the United Nations. We cannot expect the organization to succeed in promoting solutions to these problems unless the member states for their part, are determined to create the conditions that make agreements and progress possible.

"On this United Nations day 1966, the government and people of Canada pledge their continuing loyalty and support to the United Nations and to the ideals it symbolizes. I wish to pay tribute to the leadership and example you have displayed as Secretary-General and to reaffirm to you Canada's readiness to assist the United Nations whenever called upon to do so."

Paul Martin