

PRESS RELEASE



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YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PAUL MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, BROADCAST BY THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OF THE CBC

It has become a matter of tradition for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to speak to Canadians and to our friends and partners overseas at this time of the year. There are many aspects from which it would be possible to review the events of the year that is now drawing to a close. Perhaps it is natural, however, that I should wish to review it from the aspect which seems particularly apposite at the Christmas season, namely what progress we have made in the world towards enlarging the area of peace and goodwill among men.

For much of the post-war period it has been natural to embark on any such review by taking the pulse of relations between the Soviet world and the West. And, indeed, these are still of the utmost importance in determining the possibilities that exist for constructive progress on a wide range of issues. I am glad to acknowledge that, over the past several years, there has been a welcome lessening of world tensions culminating in the partial nuclear test ban agreement which was signed in August 1963. There have been no developments of this same magnitude in 1964. Nevertheless, I am encouraged to believe that, with the requisite patience and determination, we shall be able to widen the area within which our interests may be found to coincide. I am also encouraged by the assurances we have received from the new leadership which assumed power in the Soviet Union in October that there would be no change in