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INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

An Address by the Honourable Paul Martin,
Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the
Fifty-Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union, Ottawa, September 9, 1965.

★ Passages delivered in French

I am pleased and honoured, Mr. President, to have this opportunity to speak to delegates from so many countries taking part in the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. May I, as a Member of the Canadian Parliament and as a Minister of the Government, add to the words of welcome already expressed by your Canadian hosts. I have been a Member of the House of Commons for 30 years and have been privileged to take part in many historic debates here and in international gatherings during that time. It gives me particular pleasure, therefore, to see colleagues from such a wide range of legislative bodies now occupying this Chamber and discussing matters of world concern.

★ I should like to greet you also in French on behalf of a country in which the two languages have equal status and in which the traditions of Britain and France mingle. Our political and cultural inheritance and our languages give us valued links with many other nations.

★ Since it is to a British and French initiative in 1889 that the Inter-Parliamentary Union owes its creation, it is particularly fitting that we should be able to welcome you in the Canadian Parliament in both English and French.

★ The Inter-Parliamentary Union, since its foundation with only nine members, has shown, by its expansion to its present figure of 75 countries, how strong the desire is among legislative bodies of the world to increase international contacts and to develop international co-operation. It has brought together the representatives of all areas of the world and of all creeds and political beliefs. They have been able to discuss the strengthening of parliamentary institutions and those great themes of peace and international co-operation which have also been debated by governments in the League of Nations and in the United Nations.