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PEACE, JUSTICE AND WELFARE FOR ALL

The following is the text of a year-end message from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin:

I am glad to have the opportunity provided each year by the International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to send a message overseas. My best wishes go to Canadians living abroad and to the many friends of Canada, in official and private life, with whom we have worked in good causes during the year.

Our major concern throughout the year has continued to be that of achieving or maintaining peace in all parts of the world. We have seen some progress, or hope of progress in the broad discussions of peace keeping and disarmament at the United Nations and in the restraint and relative lack of tension in great-power relations, particularly in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. At the same time, we have been confronted with particular conflicts, or threats of conflict, in different parts of the world which have given us serious concern.

The dispute within the United Nations over the suspension of voting rights of those member nations which had not paid their share of peace-keeping costs was solved, at least temporarily, by decisions on the part of other members not to force the voting issue to a final confrontation at the risk of breaking up the organization. The General Assembly was able therefore to meet and vote in the normal way in the concluding months of the year.

UN PROGRESS ENCOURAGING

One of the major tasks before it was to examine the question of responsibility for peace keeping which

had led to the disagreement over finances and then voting rights. Although the problem has not yet been resolved and the United Nations continues to be faced with serious financial problems in this field, it is of some significance that member nations are actively debating fundamental questions of United Nations action to achieve peace and security in the light of all relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter. It is also a welcome indication of United Nations capacity to surmount these problems that the Security Council was able to act immediately and effectively in calling for a cease-fire in the India-Pakistan conflict.

Similarly, in the field of disarmament, while there were no agreements on projects which we consider should have the highest priority — such as extending the Partial Test-Ban Treaty of 1963 to cover underground tests, and agreeing on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons — the debates on such subjects and on the proposed World Disarmament Conference did reveal an increasing determination to achieve such agreements. The contribution of the non-aligned nations was significant and indicated a responsible interest in and increased understanding of disarmament problems.

SHADOWS OF CONFLICT

While prospects for progress in these fields were moderately encouraging, conflicts in Vietnam and between India and Pakistan and the menace of racial conflict in Rhodesia have cast dark shadows on international affairs.

The intensification of the conflict in Vietnam has naturally been a matter of deep concern to Canadians.

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