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A BACKWARD GLANCE OVER A CRITICAL YEAR

The following is the text of a message to the Canadian public by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, at the close of 1962:

"At this time, people all over the world think of the year that is gone and plan for the new year ahead.

"Looking back to 1962 we recall events some of which were dangerous and discouraging while others gave cause for gratitude and for hope. In the first category I would put such events as the Cuban crisis, the attack by mainland China on India and the failure to reach agreement on disarmament.

CRISIS AND DISCOURAGEMENT

"Over Cuba the world came very near to a nuclear war, which, it is admitted, would cost hundreds of millions of lives and might well mean the end of civilization.

"On the Chinese-Indian border we saw the two nations of the world with the largest populations beginning a conflict which if continued would set back the development of Asia for decades and, indeed, would have a far-reaching effect on every continent.

"In the field of disarmament, there has been failure to reach agreement even on the banning of further nuclear-weapons tests, despite many months of patient negotiation by the 17 nations participating in the Disarmament Conference at Geneva and also despite resolutions passed by the recent

General Assembly of the United Nations urging quick agreement.

HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

"These have all been discouraging events taking place in 1962; but there have been even more which were encouraging and gave reason for hope. For example, agreement was reached by the 14 nations working out a settlement of the trouble in Laos, away off in Southeast Asia, and it should be remembered that this was the first such agreement reached among the nations for many years; significantly, the parties thereto included the two great nuclear powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as the United Kingdom, France and India. The very fact that agreement was reached on Laos proved that, with goodwill and patience, agreement can be reached on various other questions.

"Another encouraging development was the constructive and co-operative session of the United Nations General Assembly. In my opinion, delegations came to New York determined to keep friction to a minimum and throughout they showed a remarkable sense of responsibility.

"Another encouraging event in 1962 was the emergence of more new nations, bringing the total membership of the United Nations to 110. Included in this number were three new members of the Commonwealth.

(Over)