



CANADA

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## WORLD AFFAIRS DURING 1961 -

The text follows of a year-end message by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, recorded for the International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation:

"The beginning of a new year is a time for reflection about the events of the preceding 12 months and about the prospects for the future.

"1961 produced its share of setbacks - disappointments and periods of dangerous tension. In Berlin, in the Congo, in Southeast Asia, there were developments which at times threatened the world with armed conflict. The Soviet Union's resumption of nuclear tests on a massive scale intensified the fear that nuclear war might occur in spite of the general realization of its awful consequences. The United Nations, to which people look more and more for a solution to international problems, was itself beset by an internal crisis which made many fear for its future - especially when tragedy removed its devoted servant Dag Hammarskjöld.

"Yet responsible leaders would be doing a disservice to mankind if they were to dwell exclusively on the difficulties which characterized 1961 - without acknowledging the advances and solid achievements of that year. Indeed, we should not lose sight of the all-important fact that major conflict was avoided and that, as the year closed, the processes of negotiation and conciliation were at work, or in prospect, in most of the world's trouble spots.

## CRITICAL AREAS

"In Berlin, for example, the deadline imposed by the Soviet Union was lifted, a development which brought with it a resumption of diplomatic contacts and improved prospects of a negotiated settlement where a few months earlier the world crisis of the year had arisen.

"In Southeast Asia and, in particular in Laos, a dangerous trend of events at the beginning of the year had been checked and the ground-work for a negotiated settlement laid. This was done through the convening in Geneva in May of a 14-nation conference to search for a formula for the independence and permanent neutrality of that unhappy state. A substantial measure of progress has rewarded the patient efforts of the negotiators and, despite continuing difficulties, there is still hope that an agreement will be signed early in the new year. Success could mean not only peace in Laos but a promising formula for dealing with other areas which are a source of friction between East and West.

"In the Congo, the United Nations force has continued to demonstrate its ability to respond to the varied demands made upon it during the year. Mind you, this was a new experiment in the peace-keeping function of the United Nations and naturally serious difficulties have been encountered - but the general course and direction of the United Na-