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ANNUAL YEAR-END MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN

My chief hope as we enter the New Year is that we shall see peace achieved in Vietnam before many months are over. In the past year many initiatives have been taken to bring to an end a war beneficial to no nation and tragic for the Vietnamese people.

Canada has used its own channels of contact with those immediately involved in the conflict in an effort to find out how negotiations might start. We have also held consultations on the problem of the Vietnam conflict with other nations which have a special interest in Vietnam either because of membership in the International Control Commission or responsibility for arrangements made in Geneva in 1954. We have done whatever we could within the Commission to make the basic facts of the Vietnam situation known to the world. We have been actively engaged in exploring ways in which we and others might contribute to any possible limitation of the fighting. We have also done what we could to encourage first steps being taken towards an eventual negotiation.

I regret that the efforts which we, and so many other nations have been making have not yet borne fruit. I believe however that this is no reason for abandoning our endeavours in search of the kind of solution we all know must ultimately come about. For its part, Canada stands pledged to an unremitting effort to help bring about peace.

I believe that some improvements in relations between Western nations and the nations of Eastern Europe will have an important effect on the international atmosphere in the coming year. In my visits to Poland and the Soviet Union in November, I found a close interest on the part of the two Governments concerned in developing closer relations with Canada and in limiting dangerous tensions in the world.

Those who are concerned to achieve peace and stability in South East Asia cannot lose sight of the need to bring Mainland China out of its increasing isolation. This requires a solution to the problem of Chinese representation in the United Nations. Canada made its own views clear last month at the United Nations General Assembly when we called for a new and more flexible approach which would allow representatives of the governments in both Taipei and Mainland China to participate in the work of the United Nations.

During the past few months at the session of the United Nations General Assembly which has just concluded, problems arising in the southern part of Africa have claimed a good deal of attention. The racial tensions generated there present a difficult challenge to the United Nations.

Canada has joined with the great majority of member nations in asserting United Nations responsibilities for South West Africa. We have strongly supported the role of the Commonwealth in the Rhodesian situation and have acted vigorously in accordance with United Nations resolutions on the subject. On both issues, Canada will continue to contribute to responsible and broadly supported measures intended to achieve justice and alleviate tension.

We hope very strongly that there will be progress early in the year towards a universal non-proliferation treaty. We have stressed to the major powers involved the importance we attach to achieving agreement on such a treaty.

I am hopeful after discussions with both United States and Soviet Union leaders that realization of the common interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons will lead to early agreement. It would be an important achievement for world peace if agreement could be reached in this field and with respect to another current matter of great importance, that is, a comprehensive test ban. It is essential in both areas to resume the movement toward agreement on specific matters of arms control which began in 1963.

In 1967 Canada will assume a seat on the United Nations Security Council. I trust that we shall make a contribution to world security in that capacity in keeping with our contribution over the years to peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations in many parts of the world. We have made a particular effort at the 1966 session of the General Assembly to ensure that some progress was made in improving financing procedures for peacekeeping operations. We hope that both with respect to financing and with respect to the technical ability to meet peacekeeping responsibilities, the United Nations will be strengthened in the months ahead.

Finally I need hardly remind many of you to whom this annual message is directed that economic development and the relief of the most pressing problems of food shortages and health are just as important as international political problems. Canada has made a number of important changes in its economic assistance programmes to bring the total allocations to about \$300 million and to make the terms and nature of our aid as helpful as possible to the developing nations. It will continue this process of expansion and improvement in the coming year.

To all who hear this message, I bring the greetings and goodwill of Canadians, and our assurances of positive action in an interdependent world to assure peace and well-being for all members of the world community.