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YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PAUL MARTIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
BROADCAST BY THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OF THE CBC

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 peacekeeping 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 peacekeeping 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.

One of the major tasks before it was to examine the question of responsibility for peacekeeping 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.

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. We have tried

on the basis of our experience as a member of the International Commission, to put before the Canadian Parliament and people the facts of the situation as we see them. We have made it clear that we regard a negotiated solution of the conflict in Vietnam as both practicable and desirable. We see this as the only way of achieving a peaceful settlement in the area and we are doing what we can to that end.

With regard to the conflict between India and Pakistan and the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Smith Government in Rhodesia, we took immediate action through the United Nations in one case and in company with other Commonwealth nations as well as United Nations members in the other to limit risks and work for long term stability in the areas concerned.

I do not want, however, to present 1965 only in terms of these issues of peace or war. Those listening to this message will know some of the many ways in which Canada has been able to extend friendships and develop new relations abroad. In general relations with Commonwealth associates and with NATO allies, in bilateral relations with nations traditionally very close to us such as Britain, France and the United States and in agencies of all types associated with the United Nations we can point to notable accomplishments.

Perhaps it may serve to balance the necessarily heavy emphasis in this message on matters of immediate political concern if I mentioned one or two other developments of great long-term significance. In 1965 a Commonwealth Secretariat was set up for the first time with a Canadian, Mr. Arnold Smith, as Secretary-General. The First Commonwealth Arts Festival took place in

Britain with very worthy representation from Canada under official sponsorship. In November the first general cultural agreement between France and Canada provided a framework for co-operation in cultural, scientific, technical and artistic matters.

In these ways old associations of great value to Canadians were strengthened and given new points of focus.

We have been particularly conscious also of the fact that 1965 has been International Cooperation Year. The Canadian Government has continued to extend its programmes of economic cooperation. During the year plans were implemented or decisions were made concerning new projects for aid in Latin America and Asia and programmes for Colombo Plan countries, for French-speaking African countries and for Commonwealth countries in Africa and elsewhere were steadily developed.

My wish for the coming year would be, as it has been in earlier years, that the cumulative effort of millions of people throughout the world on behalf of peace, justice and our common welfare will bear greater results. For my part I assure you of the unremitting effort of the Canadian Government towards those ends and I send to all of you from Canada our very best wishes for the New Year.