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# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 94

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1964.

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

It has become a matter of tradition for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to speak to Canadians and to our friends and partners overseas at this time of the year. There are many aspects from which it would be possible to review the events of the year that is now drawing to a close. Perhaps it is natural, however, that I should wish to review it from the aspect which seems particularly apposite at the Christmas season, namely what progress we have made in the world towards enlarging the area of peace and goodwill among men.

For much of the post-war period it has been natural to embark on any such review by taking the pulse of relations between the Soviet world and the West. And, indeed, these are still of the utmost importance in determining the possibilities that exist for constructive progress on a wide range of issues. I am glad to acknowledge that, over the past several years, there has been a welcome lessening of world tensions culminating in the partial nuclear test ban agreement which was signed in August 1963. There have been no developments of this same magnitude in 1964. Nevertheless, I am encouraged to believe that, with the requisite patience and determination, we shall be able to widen the area within which our interests may be found to coincide. I am also encouraged by the assurances we have received from the new leadership which assumed power in the Soviet Union in October that there would be no change in

Soviet foreign policy either in its pursuit of peace or its policy of peaceful co-existence or its support for the United Nations. I look forward to these assurances being reflected in a positive Soviet attitude towards some of the crucial issues in dispute between us that are still awaiting a solution.

There is no doubt in my mind that our aspirations for a more peaceful and more securely ordered world have been set back by the nuclear test which was conducted by Communist China in October. I say this because Canada is one of the countries which has for many years had the technical and economic capacity of manufacturing nuclear weapons but which has deliberately refrained from turning that capacity to other than the peaceful uses of the atom. There are other countries, such as India, which have seen their contribution to world peace lying in the same direction. The Chinese nuclear test seems to me to point up the urgent need for an international agreement or agreements to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. In bringing about such an agreement, I can see a special role and responsibility for countries which, like Canada, have followed a conscious policy of nuclear self-restraint.

Meanwhile the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations is at issue. We in Canada have welcomed the evolution of the concept of peacekeeping as a constructive response to the great and often unsettling changes that have come about in the world. We regard peacekeeping as one of the most vital functions of the United Nations and as one reflecting the interests of the world community at large. We have, I think, given ample evidence of the importance we attach to this concept by placing Canadian forces at the disposal of the United Nations for each and every peacekeeping assignment it has undertaken since 1948. In the year which is now drawing to a close Canadian soldiers have again served under the United Nations flag in Cyprus and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing to them, and to the members of Canadian contingents serving elsewhere,

the warm appreciation of the Canadian Government and people for the distinguished service they have rendered.

Peacekeeping has served to insulate situations of disorder and conflict and to pave the way for long-term solutions. This capacity of the United Nations to intervene in the cause of peace has now been called into question by the action of some important member states in refusing to share equitably in the financing of peacekeeping operations. As a result of this action the organization is now facing a crisis which, in the Canadian view, touches upon the whole conception of the United Nations as the custodian of international peace and security. We earnestly hope that, in the year upon which we are now embarking, the crisis over peacekeeping will be solved. We firmly believe, however, that it can be solved only on the basis of all member states acknowledging the responsibility they share for equipping the United Nations with an assured and effective capacity to keep the peace.

As members of the United Nations we have all pledged our determination "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security". But we have equally pledged our determination "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". There can be no doubt that this is the major challenge facing us over the next several decades. It is a challenge which calls for the mobilization of all the resources at our command. I am confident that, with the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development earlier this year, we have created the degree of understanding that must lie at the basis of any effective international action to meet this challenge to our conscience and to the enlightened self-interest of the world community as a whole.

On this note, I should like to join with men of goodwill everywhere in welcoming the New Year. Let us pledge ourselves in 1965 to meet the great challenges that lie before us and to contribute, each within the measure of our capacity, to the consolidation of world peace and world prosperity. Let us make 1965, in spirit as in name, a Year of International Co-operation.