

PRESS RELEASE



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The following is the text of a statement made in the House of Commons today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, in reply to a question concerning allegations that Mr. E. H. Norman, Canadian Ambassador to Egypt, is a Communist: -

"Mr. Speaker, I am very glad indeed that the matter has been brought forward as it gives me an opportunity of making a statement in regard to it.

"I have read the record of the Internal Security Sub-Committee of the United States Senate Judicial Committee which concerns Mr. E. H. Norman, our Ambassador to Egypt, and which yesterday was given in Washington to the press, though not to the Canadian Government, and has been mistakenly and unfortunately referred to in the press and radio as evidence. The best commentary I can make on this procedure is contained in the remarks of Senator Jenner, a member of the Sub-Committee, when he said at the end of the particular session of which this was the record, and I am quoting him from the record:

"I will admonish everyone here that this is an executive session".

"So Mr. Jenner and his counsel, Mr. Morris, whose methods of investigation we already know about and for which we have very little respect, gave this record of an executive session of this committee to the United States press before passing it on to the Canadian Government, though it made serious allegations against a Canadian senior diplomatic representative. We shall be making strong protests to the United States Government in respect of this matter.

"This record contains a great many innuendos and insinuations that Mr. Norman was a Communist. We knew all about these charges which were made years ago in Washington, as a result of which Mr. Norman was subjected, in his own interests and in the public interest and with his own approval and full co-operation, to a special and exhaustive security check, the results of which were announced in two press releases by our department on August 9, 1951, and August 24, 1951. As a result of that check, Mr. Speaker, our confidence in Mr. Norman's loyalty was not weakened in any respect. Nothing he has done since has affected - unless to increase - the confidence we have in him as a devoted, efficient and loyal official of the government, who is doing extremely important work at a very difficult post in a way which commands my whole-hearted admiration and deserves my full support. These slanders and unsupported insinuations against him contained in this United States senatorial Sub-Committee report we can treat with the contempt they deserve."