



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A speech by Mr. Howard C. Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada in Toronto, February 26, 1960.

... This evening, of course, I can't go into all the issues confronting the modern world, but I shall endeavour to touch upon some of those subjects which I know to be of special interest to you.

Inevitably our thoughts turn first to the grave problems posed by the rapid development of nuclear weapons and the menace to civilization inherent in their very existence. The search for some satisfactory system of controlling this deadly new force is obviously the most urgent requirement facing statesmen and governments today.

It is not, however, a task which can be tackled in a spirit of despair. I refuse to believe that the human genius which has led to the mastery of the atom is unequal to the far more compelling necessity of controlling and ultimately outlawing its annihilating capability.

Nor is it a problem which we should expect to see solved in one comprehensive conference or agreement. Already the outlines of man's multiple approach to the problem are becoming apparent in a series of related fields: improvement of the state of scientific knowledge of the effects of radiation; prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons to outer space; and the development of an enforceable ban on the testing of such weapons.

In most of these hopeful endeavours -- each of which testifies to the ultimate desire of nations to restore sanity to a world on the brink of disaster -- Canada has been an active participant. In the field of radiation research we can claim to have been in the forefront. The Canadian authorities have long recognized that one of the causes of the deep public concern felt in this country over the development and testing