

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

I hope you are enjoying your years here as much as I enjoyed mine, at Oxford and Gray's Inn, in the 1930's. I also hope that some of you afterwards, may decide to go into domestic political life in Canada and come into my own profession of world politics, or the Foreign Service.

No. 65/3

ADDRESS BY MR. ARNOLD SMITH
ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA
TO THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
LONDON, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1965.

Until recently many Canadians tended to think that their politics were somehow duller than those of many other countries. I doubt if this was ever true, but Canadians have sometimes thought that

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courtesies was a national characteristic, or even a virtue. Mackenzie King even developed a conscious political technique of trying to avoid

It is the kind of understatement to be expected from a diplomat asked to talk about Canada's place in international affairs, to say that it is a pleasure to be in London, and an honour to be asked to speak to you this evening at the Canadian Universities Society. But I must make it clear that I am not, tonight, speaking as a diplomat: I speak not at all as a representative of my government -- merely as an individual, expressing personal views about our country's role in the world. In addressing so distinguished a group of Canadians in this capital of the Commonwealth, I am moved to make a patriotic speech, though I realise that nothing could be more old-fashioned. Instead of understatement I shall simplify and generalise to the point of appearing to exaggerate, since I want to suggest factors which seem to me basic and recurrent, and shall not take up your time with the obvious qualifying shadings needed to round out accounts of particular events.