

United States Leadership

Press:

Mr. Pearson, you have mentioned two things here. One, the necessity for a change of tactics and, the other, the fact that we are fifty states. Now can we expect to get leadership? We have been looking to the United States as a leader. Are you satisfied we are getting the kind of leadership from the United States now that we need at such a time?

Mr. Pearson:

I think, of course, we are getting leadership from the United States but, because we are free countries, we have to pay a price for freedom and that price is the right to criticize ourselves and our friends. So we do criticize the United States and the United States criticizes its friends and the result of that criticism very often gives the impression that we are not working together. There may be a great deal of criticism going on inside totalitarian countries, inside these little groups. But you never hear about it. I think the United States has given magnificent leadership since World War II. And when I say that, I do not mean that there are not lots of occasions when we feel like criticizing the United States as they feel like criticizing us.

Press:

You do not feel that now is the time when we need a bold, active leadership to unite us in face of this new peril that is so apparent?

Mr. Pearson:

I am going to ask you a question. I know this is unprecedented. What do you mean by bold, active leadership?

Press:

Well, I mean this -- that at the present time you see the British going one way in Cyprus, the Greeks going another way. You see the United States making statements which go in a third way. You have this kind of situation in almost every issue that comes up. The Middle East, of course, as well. It seems to me that you need someone now to tie these things together and give direction to international diplomatic policy.