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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. PEARSON AT GENEVA: The following is the partial text of the speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, at the Geneva Conference on May 4:

"If I venture to take part in this debate, it is because I do not wish my silence to be interpreted as indicating any weakening or slackening of the strong support that my country has steadily given to United Nations policy on Korea; or as indicating, even by omission, approval of the distortions in some previous speeches on Korean and Asian developments; or indifference to the false charges that have been levelled, particularly at the United States of America, in respect of these developments.

"The right to be free does not include the obligation to be communist; and 'Asia for the Asians' is not the same as - indeed is the opposite of - 'Asia for the Cominform'. It would be no contribution either to Asian peace or prosperity, independence or dignity, if the Japanese East Asian co-prosperity sphere were exchanged for the Chinese East Asian co-communist empire.

"In their speeches to this conference the leaders of the delegations of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China have attacked the United States for a policy of aggressive imperialism in Asia, which, they allege, stands in the way of freedom for the Asian peoples. As the leader of the delegation of a country which is a neighbour of the most powerful state in the world, I can say with a

conviction based on our national experience that the people of the United States are neither aggressive nor imperialist; and it is the people of the United States that freely elect their governments.

"If, indeed, the United States did not respect the rights and interests of others, Canada would not today be an independent power but merely a satellite of her great neighbour. Her representatives would not be able, as they certainly are able, to speak their own minds and stand up for their own views in conferences of the nations, even if this means, as it has more than once meant, disagreeing with some aspects of the policy of the United States of America.

"I hope that the fact that we have on occasion so disagreed (indeed, we differed on the composition of the United Nations Korean Political Conference) will be taken as convincing evidence, not only of our own independence, but also of the respect which the United States has for smaller countries, and of the value which it attaches to co-operation and support based on free will, and not imposed from above. Our own experience of free partnership and co-operation shows the rest of the world how little it has to fear from this so-called 'aggressive imperialism' of the United States.

"There was another observation of the leader of the Chinese Communist delegation which invites comment. He states that all foreign military bases in Asia should be removed and

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