

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 64/14

DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE

Convocation Address by the Secretary of State
for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin,
at the Commencement Service, Wayne State University,
Detroit, Michigan, June 18, 1964

It is a great privilege for me to be here this evening and to participate in this Convocation. Since its foundation in 1868, Wayne State University has compiled a distinguished record of service to the cause of higher education in the United States and it is for me a particular honour to be awarded a degree from this great university.

All over the United States and Canada, this is the season when people of my generation are telling graduating classes, with a good deal of solemnity, that they are going out into a difficult and dangerous world.

I wish I could tell you it wasn't true. I wish I could tell you, as my generation of graduating students were told by some of my fellow Canadians, that in North America we live in a fireproof house isolated by our geography and our history from the need to worry about other peoples' wars. Yet by the time you reach graduation in this year of grace 1964, you have all heard, so many times that you may begin to believe it, that there is no place on this planet, and certainly not on this continent, that would be immune from nuclear war.

You have probably also heard too many speakers warn you of the danger that man's new knowledge has unleashed forces he has neither the strength of character nor the consciousness to control. These forces, in other words, may not only run away with man but destroy him. Perhaps some of you are getting just a little allergic to the repetition of this alarmist advice for the perfectly healthy reason that you do not see what you can really do about it anyway.

Keys to Hell and Heaven

At the same time you are already fully aware that your generation are being given the keys not only to a nuclear hell but to a material heaven also, inaccessible to any previous generation on this earth. With the incredible releases of energy, electrical as well as nuclear, made available to man for the first time in this century, it is already possible that by the end of the century (that is within the life time of most of you), freedom from