

VERNMENT



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/3

SECURITY THROUGH CO-OPERATION

An address by Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, to the Canadian Society of New York, in New York, on February 10, 1950.

I am happy to have this occasion to attend a meeting of the Canadian Society in New York and I am deeply gratified to be made an honorary member of this organization. As such, I will feel more closely associated with the purposes of the Canadian Society. I can assure you they are purposes which I am anxious to support in any way that is possible for someone who is not resident in New York.

.....Though it is perfectly true that I am happy to be here with you this evening, your President knows I was reluctant to accept the invitation to make my visit this early in 1950.

One reason for my hesitation was that you wanted me to be in New York at just about the time we usually begin our annual session of Parliament. And I know most of you are close enough to Canada to realize what a busy time the opening of a Parliamentary session is for the members of the government.

At the time your President invited me, we were all preoccupied with our first post-election session of Parliament and I must admit I was frankly apprehensive about undertaking additional commitments when we were so concerned about meeting those we had made during the election campaign.

That is why my first response to your invitation was negative. But shortly afterwards Mr. Pearson came home to Ottawa from New York, where he had been attending the Assembly of the United Nations. While he was in Ottawa, he persuaded me to change my mind and to accept your invitation.

You might like to know how he did it.

He said it had become a tradition for the Prime Minister of Canada to speak to the Canadian Society of New York, and that this was a privilege of which I should avail myself at the earliest possible opportunity.

Of course I knew that your Society would give me an unequalled opportunity to talk about Canada, and that I could find no more friendly and receptive audience. But that fact itself was a further reason for my reluctance. I was worried about not having anything new which was worthwhile saying to you.