



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Notes for an Address by the Prime Minister,
the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, to the
Canadian Society of New York, March 5, 1965.

In all this development, we wish to maintain the closest and
In the past two years, Canada's economic performance has been
good - and prospects for this year are equally good. In 1963 and 1964,
our gross national product increased by a total of 14.6 per cent, to
\$46.4 billion. In fact, our percentage increase was greater than yours.

On a per capita basis, and in terms of 1957 dollars, our increase
was 6.8 per cent. Your per capita increase was 5.1 per cent. So we're
catching up to your material standard of living. We may soon achieve your
goal of two television sets in every room and a helicopter for every back-
yard.

On the political front, difficulties in building a strong,
progressive and prosperous federal state, covering more than half a contin-
ent, are being faced. I should be the last to deny that these difficulties
are as great and complex as have ever faced 20 million people. But they
are being overcome. New opportunities are also being seized.

It is the first responsibility of the Government of Canada - as of
any government - to ensure that our national purposes are achieved, that our
economic and material progress is continued and that its benefits are spread
as widely and as equitably as possible among all our people.

In our country - as on this whole continent -, it is inadmissible
that technological and other changes that have led to the affluent society
in aggregate should exclude so many from that affluence.

The record is good, but we are on the threshold of even greater
developments.

Many of these are taking place in the vast space Canada occupies
north of the main population centres of this continent, but they stretch
from Atlantic to Pacific and right across the Arctic - from Labrador to
the Alaskan Panhandle.

These developments range from spectacular iron-ore discoveries
on the Arctic Circle and in Baffin Island to active - and promising - oil
exploration over areas in excess of 34 million acres off our three coasts.