

GOVERNMENT



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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An address by the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. J.G. Diefenbaker, at the Commencement Exercises of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, on June 7, 1959.

... As I listened to those warm words of introduction, sir, I was particularly touched by the fact that they come from one whose contribution to the building of strong Canadian-American relations is recognized in every part of our country. We are appreciative of your contribution to the cause of international co-operation. You mentioned something of my interest in external affairs, and naturally when an opportunity such as this arises, you would expect me to say something in regard to our relations, going back over the years to those dark months in the summer of 1940 when the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada joined together in the Ogdensburg Declaration which established the Canadian-United States Joint Board on Defence. You, sir, have occupied a position on this Board since 1954 that has earned for you the appreciation and friendship of the people of Canada. In the discharge of your responsibilities you have made your contribution to the achievement of that peace so eloquently set forth in the invocation made here today.

We entered into that agreement. Yesterday, I was in the city of Prince Albert in northern Saskatchewan, and witnessed there an example of American-Canadian co-operation in the inauguration of a radar laboratory similar in kind and nature to the Lincoln Laboratory in Boston, Mass. When this joint Board was first formed, there were many who said that it would not last in the days of peace. They felt that, after all, it was merely a stopgap. They have been proven wrong in the intervening years, as we meet that challenge to which you referred, that is ever present in the hearts and souls of all of us.

John Foster Dulles

As this is the first occasion on which I have visited the United States since the death of John Foster Dulles, may I say this, on behalf of the Canadian people: we believe that in him we lost one who had been a friend to us and with us in the