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CANADA, THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND THE WORLD

In a speech to the Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto on July 3, Prime Minister Diefenbaker declared that Canadians do not regard themselves as anti-American simply because they "wish to make their decisions in international affairs in Canada's interest rather than to be unquestioning followers of the views of other nations, however friendly". In this connection, he explained the Canadian position on Cuba: "Canada, while deploring various actions and practices of the Cuban Government, has not considered such disapproval to constitute a reason for departing from the normal relations which the Canadian Government has endeavoured to maintain with various countries whose philosophies are repugnant to us".

Mr. Diefenbaker went on to expound as follows Canada's official views on hemispheric co-operation (with special reference to mutual defence arrangements between Canada and the United States), on the continuing outcry by "a vociferous minority" for the withdrawal of Canada from its defence commitments and on the steady build-up of Communist pressure at certain political trouble spots throughout the world:

"... We are deeply interested in everything pertaining to this Hemisphere. We know that Latin American states are playing an ever-increasing role on the international scene and that their support to the Western world is of major importance.

"Canadians welcome the constructive proposals put forward by President Kennedy in the 'Alliance

for Progress'. We believe that only by the raising of living standards of less fortunate nations can their social fabric be strengthened and their peoples be preserved from the contaminating influences of Communist propaganda.

"The improvement of conditions in Latin America can be achieved only through international co-operation. The Canadian Government was recently invited to be represented by an observer at a special ministerial meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council in Uruguay, and has accepted.

"The wealth of continental resources and skills make high living standards possible for Canadians and Americans. Our eyes and our hearts must always look out to the world where 'the abyss of affluence' divides peoples, and where bridges must be built to cross that abyss if the 'developed North' and the 'under-developed South' on this planet are to reach out and make true contact with each other. The world cannot exist half rich and half poor, and it is to the interests of all who love freedom that a favourable balance in the massive imbalance of human welfare must be attained without delay.

PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENCE

"In the field of defence Canada and the United States have a close and effective partnership, based on a mutual regard for each other's sovereignty and rights. In the missile age it is only by collective