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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. PEARSON ON WORLD AFFAIRS: While there is somewhat more hope for peace and stability in the world than existed a year ago, "the world still remains an unsafe place for the weak, the weary and the unwary," the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, said in the House of Commons on January 29 in his annual survey of world affairs.

Mr. Pearson said at the outset that he would leave many subjects untouched because some of them, at least, would be dealt with at a later time by his Parliamentary Assistant, Mr. Pinard. Some excerpts from Mr. Pearson's speech, on world-tension, NATO, Germany and Canada-U.S. relations, were as follows:

"The reduction of tension in Europe which began a year ago, and which was mentioned in this House about that time, has been maintained. Nevertheless, the menace of Soviet Imperialism remains and foreign and defence policies of our country and other countries of the free world must continue to be based on this fact. And I suppose we should also not forget that if there has been improvement - and I think there has been - it is largely due to the increased strength and unity of the free world, especially within the Atlantic alliance.

"In Europe two developments have occurred since I spoke last in the House on international affairs, which I think deserve special attention. In the first place there has been a change, whatever it may portend, in the

attitude and in the tactics, if not in the foreign policy, of the Soviet Union since the death of Joseph Stalin. There has been some indication in the past year of a trend away from the sterile rigidity of Stalinist policies both in domestic and in foreign affairs.

"Among the more interesting Soviet internal developments have been the new emphasis on collective leadership in Moscow as opposed to personal dictatorship, and the modification of Stalin's denationalizing policy as applied to the non-Russian peoples of the Soviet Union. And there has been a greater stressing, I think, in their Governments of practical considerations, of technical efficiency, rather than of Marxist orthodoxy. However, the outstanding domestic development in the Soviet Union during this period has been in economic policy, where a programme of increased production of consumer goods has been given such wide publicity that the failure of the regime to carry out its promises in this respect would, I think, cause very great disappointment among the people, and possibly even some unrest.

"Agriculture in Russia has received particular attention, with an apparent reliance on greater money rewards for the peasant as the best way now to get results. The Communists have not of course retreated from the principle of collectivization, but the peasant's own plot now seems to have become again