

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 54/14 PRIME MINISTER'S TOKYO PRESS CONFERENCE

Text of statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, made at Tokyo, Japan, on March 11, 1954, during the course of his tour of Europe and Asia.

I appreciate the opportunity of meeting you this morning though this is a larger conference than any I have had since I left the East Block something over a month ago and I think I should apologize to you for having you come here at my invitation or the Ambassador's invitation that you come, because I do not feel I have anything by the way of information that would be of interest to your readers to communicate to you. But that doesn't detract from the pleasure of meeting you and having the opportunity of expressing to you and through you to all the ladies and gentlemen of the press that I have met since I left Ottawa my appreciation for the friendly and kindly way in which they have handled the reports of what activities I have been participating in since I left. You of course all know that the real objective of my visit was to bring courteous and friendly goodwill from the people of Canada to the people of countries that I set out to visit. I wanted also of course to return the courtesies that had been extended to us by several visits of leaders of various nations to Ottawa in the last four or five years and I can assure you that though my visit has been quite rapid everywhere and much shorter, it has been of great interest to me to make it and I have enjoyed it and feel that it has been quite worthwhile. Now, on previous occasions when I have met the ladies and gentlemen of the press I have told them, without promising or feeling that I could answer all of the questions they might wish to put to me, in that I would give such answers as I could with frankness and candour and that is what I have been attempting to do.

QUESTION: As this is the last stop on your tour, it might be appropriate if you could just give us your most important impressions of your world trip -- what sticks out most in your mind.

ANSWER: What sticks out more in my mind than everything else is that I have received the confirmation of what I formerly believed to be the case and that is that men and women in all nations are essentially the same, have the same aspirations, the same needs, the same anxieties and at present the same desire to work with each other for the purpose of maintaining the greatest possible degree of world stability so that they can devote their attention and efforts to the improvement of their standard of living.

QUESTION: Along the same line, could you point out some of the more specific outstanding problems which you feel the world now has to face in the immediate future?

ANSWER: Well I don't know that I could point out the outstanding world problems. The one outstanding problem is to