



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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NATO AND WESTERN UNITY

Text of an address by Mr. L. B. Pearson,
Secretary of State for External Affairs of
Canada, to the American Council on NATO,
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, January 29,
1957.

Lately the world's attention has been centred upon the United Nations, and in this past week or so I personally have been much more involved in United Nations affairs than I have in those of NATO. This, of course, is because we have been trying, through the United Nations, to ease the critical situation in the Middle East. That is an area that may not technically be within the NATO Treaty limits, but what happens there is certainly of vital concern to NATO.

The United Nations is important; very important. I don't think we could do without it. But as long as it remains an imperfect instrument for peace - especially as long as there is a "double standard" in its membership with respect to compliance with its resolutions - NATO is essential as a deterrent and a shield against aggression. I am very glad, therefore, to have this opportunity to meet and talk with a group concerned with the Atlantic Alliance, which remains the effective basis of our policy of collective security, and will remain so until the United Nations can discharge that responsibility on a wider basis.

I'm sure it would be profitable neither to you nor to me, or to enlightenment on the subject, if I were to try to talk about NATO from the military point of view. There is some one here much better qualified than I to do that - in fact, the one person most qualified to do so. So I will confine myself to the non-military aspect of the Alliance, which, if not so immediately important, is basic to the success of NATO.

As a son of the parsonage, I find the tradition of speaking to a text a useful one, and the text I should like to offer tonight is from the Report of the Committee of Three on Non-Military Co-operation in NATO, which was published last December. The passage appears in the introductory section of the Report, and reads as follows: