



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 54/39 THE POSITION OF GERMANY IN INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, September 7, 1954.

When I had the privilege of speaking at the International and Health Day luncheon at the Exhibition two years ago, I tried to answer the question, "How is NATO doing?"

On that occasion, I made no mention of any other international problem than that of NATO. It is no reflection on the continuing significance of this particular question, but merely underlines the world-wide character of our share of responsibility for a peace, which is now indeed indivisible, to recall that during these two years much of our interest and effort and anxiety has been centred on areas in Asia, which are farther removed geographically than in other respects from Western Europe and the North Atlantic community. Today, Canadian troops remain armed and on guard in a Korea which is not yet at peace, while other Canadians are facing the hard and ungrateful, if honourable and important task, of supervising the implementation of the armistice settlement in Indochina. We are, I think, accepting - and it is right that we should - our fair share of international responsibility for maintaining peace and preventing aggression, not only by our defence effort at home, but by our participation in collective action, both in the Atlantic and the Pacific.

While Asia is today a centre of anxious concern for Canadians, the question I posed at this luncheon two years ago, "How is NATO doing?" remains just as important today as then. Indeed, it has a new and special significance at this particular moment, when it has been made clear by the action of the French Parliament that the proposals that had been worked out and the protocols that had been signed for associating the German Republic with NATO, through EDC, cannot be put into effect. While the other members of NATO deeply regret that decision in Paris, we should try to understand that reasons behind it, and draw the appropriate conclusions based on something more solid than disappointment or frustration. We must accept it, not as putting an end either to the healing and hopeful process of European integration, or to the association of Germany with the Atlantic collective defence system, but as necessitating an urgent search for an alternative method by which these essential objectives can be achieved with a minimum of delay.