

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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DEVELOPMENT AID AND WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Advance text of a Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Adversising and-Sales Club, Hamilton, Ontario, on January 6, 1964.

It is a pleasure for me to be here with you on "Civic Night". This event, which joins together many of the service clubs and other goodwill organizations in this city, is a fine example of citizenship in action. The recognition which you accord to the Citizen of the Year here in Hamilton gives emphasis to the importance of good citizenship on the part of all Canadians.

I think that we can be proud of the fine tradition of citizenship in our country. But we cannot be complacent. Today our values and our way of life are being challenged as never before; challenged just as much by apathy and indifference and lack of concern within our country as they are from the great forces at work in the world at large.

The important and vital necessity of a well-informed body of citizens, conscious of their responsibilities and obligations, has never been greater. This is particularly true in Canada today. We are a young country. We possess many of the prerequisites for greatness. Never has the importance of national unity been greater. Let us have a full and open dialogue between all Canadians as to the nature and strength of our country. Let the dialogue be conducted with tolerance and moderation and good sense. If we do this, and I believe we are in the process of doing it, I have no doubt that an even stronger and more united and more vigorous Canada will be the result.

This evening I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to speak about some of my ideas and concerns about how we can exercise our citizenship on the international scale. We live in a rapidly shrinking world today and just as, in the past, we felt concern and obligations towards people in our own communities, today this concern must be reflected on a world scale, because today, truly, the whole world is our neighbourhood.