



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, before the Golden Jubilee Convention of Rotary International, at Chicago June 1, 1955.

To appear before so vast and representative an audience as this is not only a great honour but a stern test of a man's confidence that he has something to say, and a way of saying it worthy of so great an occasion.

In addition to your obvious and heartening goodwill, there is one other fact which reassures me. All of us here, whatever our calling and wherever we may come from, are working toward the same objective: peace, security and the promotion of human welfare.

It is altogether fitting that this jubilee convention is being held in Chicago - a city which has at time been alleged to be a centre of "go-it-alone-ism"; inhabited by sturdy patriots inclined to be suspicious of foreigners, as slick and tricky people! The welcome given to this convention, with delegates from all parts of the world, helps to dispose of any such allegation.

The very fact that the Rotary movement, product of and flourishing in this city and this area, has as one of its fundamental objectives the advancement of international understanding and goodwill, suggests the true sentiments of the people who live in the mid-west of this great country. There is no trace of national superiority or self-sufficiency in the ideals of Rotary, which 50 years ago began flowing from this city to all those parts of the world represented here today. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine any notion more flatly contrary to your objectives of unselfish service and mutual aid than the idea that one person, or one community, or one nation - or even one race - could be sufficient unto itself.

For more than twenty-five years, I have been concerned with the study and the conduct of international affairs. In view of what has happened in that field over those twenty-five years, you may wonder why I should boast of that. Be that as it may, perhaps this morning I might regard myself as a minor member of the management reporting to the shareholders of his international company.

What my colleagues in other countries and I have been attempting to do in our official capacities - or what we can do - stems, of course, entirely from the principles and policies which you and many thousands of your fellow-citizens wish to see converted into working realities. We who are