



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 55/14 DEBATE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statement made in the House of Commons on April 21, 1955, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, closing the debate on External Affairs (see Statements and Speeches No. 55/10 which opened the debate).

In rising to close this debate I would be ungrateful indeed if in the first place I did not express my appreciation of the encouragement and support I have just received from the hon. member who has just taken his seat, and tell him in reply that I shall be very glad to play third base for him any place, any time.

This debate began on March 24 and, with appropriate intermissions, is finishing on April 21. During the days that have been allotted to the discussion of this subject-- and there are few subjects which will come before us which will be more important--the discussion has ranged far and wide, from the atomic pollution of the atmosphere, on which my hon. friend from Nanaimo (Mr. Cameron) speaks with such enviable assurance, to the Old Testament, its history and its mores, about which the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. MacDougall) talked to us some days ago.

To a very large extent however, the discussion has been focused on the situation in the Far East, though other subjects have been brought up, and a great many questions have been asked. Tonight I hope to deal with some of these questions. Also I feel I must challenge one or two observations made during the course of the debate which I do not think were correct. It may be that I shall not be able to deal adequately with all the matters raised, in which case I ask the pardon of those whom I have overlooked,

When the Committee on External Affairs has the estimates before it--and that is the purpose of our present resolution--of course there will be opportunity before that Committee to question the Minister on any matter raised in this debate, or any other matter concerning the policy or the administration of the Department of External Affairs. As is customary, I shall be very glad to make myself available to that Committee for as long as it desires to question me.

In this debate more than one speaker has referred to the valuable part being played in these tense and difficult times by the association to which we belong, and of which we are very proud, our Commonwealth of Nations. I believe we are all conscious,