

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 48/55

## "THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA IN THE POST WAR WORLD".

(Address by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Under-Secretary  
of State for External Affairs at Convention  
of Kiwanis International, Los Angeles, California,  
June 8, 1948).

It is a great privilege, but a greater responsibility for a Canadian to speak on such an occasion and to such an audience as this. I am grateful for the privilege, but very doubtful of my ability to discharge the responsibility in a satisfactory way. I am not worried so much about the American part, the major part, of my audience. I have lived in this country long enough to know how tolerant and generous Kiwanis audiences are. They will, I am sure, make the necessary allowances. But I am nervous about the Canadian minority, who may be less charitable and more demanding. If they don't like what I say, they may persuade the government "to fire" me when I get back to Ottawa.

I have noticed, with very great satisfaction, that the first two objectives of Kiwanis for 1948 are: 1. To promote world peace through international understanding and preparedness, adequate to preserve free governments. 2. To proclaim the friendship of Canada and the United States as an outstanding example of international good will.

About the first, I may have something to say later. But I cannot mention the second without taking this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the work that Kiwanis has done in this field. I know something of that work, both through my sojourn at the Canadian Embassy in Washington and my occupancy of my present post. As a Canadian citizen, I can only say "thank you". As a Canadian official concerned with the relations between our two countries, I can assure you that Kiwanis' efforts to promote Canadian-American friendship and understanding makes the work of our department of government easier. It helps in a most effective way to create the right kind of public opinion, which is the only solid foundation, in a democratic state, for its international policy.

The strengthening of good relations between countries in a world which is suspicious, frightened and divided is now more vitally important than ever before - in a world where far too many states are too far removed from that concept of good neighbourhood which inspires our two countries.

The relations between Canada and the United States have always been considered as a model of international friendship and understanding. They are - of course. We have had a very long period of uninterrupted peace. We have fought together in two world wars. Our boundary is unguarded for 3,567 miles, though you might get a different impression if you tried to smuggle carrots or diamonds into Canada (they are almost of equal value these days), or if I tried to get past some United States immigration inspector who had discovered that I once was a member of the Young Radicals Basketball team at high school. The fact is that we feel at home in each other's country, which is, after all, the foundation of good neighbourhood. We should, for we are at home.