

APPENDIX I

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AT THE THIRD SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION,  
ON NOVEMBER 24, 1948, IN BEIRUT

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

I wish to associate myself with the speakers who have preceded me in thanking the Lebanese authorities for the reception they have given us; I wish to underline the sentiment which prompted UNESCO to choose as the site of the Third General Conference the city of Beirut, "jewel of the Mediterranean".

Without going back to the origins of Lebanon and the ancient cities which were the envy of the world, I will simply recall that the legend located here the existence of the first man and the first events in the history of humanity; that the voice of the prophets spoke forth here; that cities now vanished reigned over the whole Mediterranean territory, and that of their power and grandeur vestiges remain; that men lived here in splendour and glory; that men have destroyed what others had built up and that earthquakes have reduced to dust the efforts of successive generations; that on the site of these demolished towns others have arisen characterized by the same devotion to the past and the same concern for adjustment to the requirements of an evolving world; and lastly, that from all this, a lesson emerges from which delegations here present will derive benefit, and which will not fail to influence their thoughts.

There are, in this audience, persons to whom the past is more immediately familiar and who, therefore, will by their presence and advice, enhance the success of our work. Many have travelled and retain of certain parts of the world, more or less distant from their country, a memory tinged with nostalgia. Their culture was a source of life from which they have never ceased to draw. The majority, less curious or less favoured, have but a book knowledge of the rest of the world, on which an occasional voyage sheds a shaft of light. Their horizon has thus been broadened, and in their hearts and minds has sprung up a brotherly feeling for other men whose customs and environments they would never have encountered if they had not met them in their native surroundings. By changing from year to year the seat of its Conferences, UNESCO aims at bringing about, between all the Member States, the contacts which are essential to the harmonious development of its work. So far it has been, in turn, London, Paris, Mexico City and Beirut. Each of these cities has welcomed the delegates, but London and Paris held mysteries for no one. Great capitals as they are, they have been for many centuries, and continue to be, centres of universal attraction. Mexico had a special charm. Those who were fortunate enough to be present at the Second Conference carried away with them a most vivid impression. If I am to believe certain of my friends, the high altitude caused for a time a certain restlessness, but this was soon dispelled. The period of acclimatization was short, and once it had been surmounted, the Conference put into its work an enthusiasm by which the Organization clearly benefited and which enabled it to take its bearings more surely.