



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

Excerpts from an address by Rt. Hon. Louis S. St-Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, Toronto, November 15, 1956.

... Independent nationhood bears with it the responsibility of making our own decisions in international affairs. That was the course on which we had embarked from the time of the Statute of Westminster and it was clear for all to see that we had reached that goal by September 10, 1939 when we advised His Majesty to declare war on behalf of Canada against the Germany of Hitler.

Because of the very high degree of unity of public opinion within Canada on our role in world affairs during the last decade it has been possible for us to make constructive and enlightened contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security. In saying this, I would remind you that it is axiomatic that a country -- and this applies with particular force to one such as Canada with her multi-cultural population and varied economic regions -- cannot successfully implement its national policies unless its people are united in their purpose.

While there has naturally been some discussion of the effectiveness of some of our policies, there has, I think, been pretty general acceptance of the goals of those policies as being in keeping with the fundamental principles, of which I spoke here in Toronto in January, 1947, of maintaining our national unity, our concept of political liberty, the supremacy of the rule of law, the recognition of the importance of human values and a willingness to accept international responsibilities within the bounds of our capabilities.