

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 59/27 THE UNITY BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Notes from an address by the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, to a joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Chicago and the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry at Chicago, Illinois, on September 3, 1959.

Mr. President -- I appreciate the welcome given me to Chicago, which I take in no personal sense but reflecting something of the honour done to my country.

The unity, fellowship, fraternity and common dedication to the heritage of freedom is to the peoples of the United States and Canada a living thing.

The declaration of "Canada Day" at the Pan-American Games by Mayor Richard Daley is a kindly gesture, and a further abiding evidence of the spirit displayed in this city during the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and the Prince Philip, in July. That was an unforgettable and memorable experience for the Queen. I know, as her Minister, for she told me so.

The purpose of my visit today is primarily to visit the Pan-American Games. International sport makes a worthy contribution to the recognition of the best in the individual human being. In sport, as in no other human institution, the individual comes into his own. In sport the individual is honoured and rewarded for what he is and what he does, without consideration of race, religion or colour. This surely is equality of opportunity in its fullest sense.

This meeting of the minds and muscles of over two thousand athletes from twenty-four nations epitomizes that spirit which, if attained in the international sphere, would assure world peace.

Sport proves that keen competition and rivalry between individuals does not mean hatred or domination. Competitors strive to the utmost for the prize, asking only to be judged by the same rules. Competition conducted in