



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### CO-EXISTENCE

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, Windsor, Ont., August 30, 1954.

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Some twenty-five hundred years ago a political writer in Greece by the name of Aristotle, who was interested in municipal problems, stated that though men first came together in cities in order to live, they remained there in order to live well. He was concerned by the implications of this development, as most of you must be concerned today, because it meant extending the responsibilities of city government from the protection of life and property to such things as education, health, recreation and social welfare. No doubt many of you, interested, and perhaps often harassed by such problems as how to relate new services to old revenues, must at times be tempted to think that this extension of municipal functions and the difficulties it creates is not sufficiently appreciated by provincial, or even federal politicians and officials.

Aristotle, however, was not so much interested in the problem of the relations between city and province (in his time and place the city was itself a state) as he was in the deeper and more universal problem of political purpose in the government of his day; and, particularly, in the deterioration that takes place in society when men limit and lower their vision and reconcile themselves to the mediocre and shoddy. He would have agreed with a remark made not long ago that the fault is not in missing, but in aiming low.

This possibility, that men may sell themselves short, and may voluntarily or unthinkingly accept sub-standards and unworthy objectives, has always been one of the greatest dangers to face free human societies. This danger, that of inadequate political purpose, which worried the Greek observer of five hundred B.C., is still here to worry us today. This applies to the field of municipal politics with which you are concerned, as well as to that of international politics which absorbs most of my time. The appeal to the second-rate, and the insidious effort to substitute the spurious for the genuine, is the more dangerous today, because all the media of mechanistic propaganda can be brought to bear in its support. There never was a time in history when so much ingenuity was used to confuse, to conceal and to betray. Especially is this true of the propaganda of international communism.