



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF MR. PEARSON

The loss of the Rt. Hon. Lester B. Pearson is a great one, for men like him appear rarely. He was a man of ability and good will who worked the greater part of his life to make the world a better place for others. Mr. Pearson was widely renowned for his genius in negotiations and diplomacy, for his very human qualities of compassion and quiet humour, for his major contributions to world peace and the welfare of man.

He was tireless in his work on behalf of the United Nations, which he called "our best hope for world peace". He played a leading role in its organisation and development, as well as in the work of its specialized agencies, and was influential in leading the U.N. to take giant steps toward the attainment of its charter aims.

These contributions were widely recognized: by the Nobel Peace Prize -- he was the only Canadian ever to receive it; by Her Majesty the Queen's prestigious Order of Merit -- an order limited to 24 members; and by honorary degrees from more than 40 colleges and universities.

But though he was a man of international stature, Mr. Pearson was first and foremost a Canadian. More than forty years of his life were devoted to the service of his country. During that time, he made Canada a respected name in world councils, but the contribution to his country which gave him the greatest satisfaction was his work in preparing the foundation for