



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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FAR EASTERN ISSUES

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made to the Men's Canadian Club of Vancouver, May 27, 1953.

You would expect me, I think, to-day to discuss with you some aspects of foreign policy with which I am concerned for the time being in a direct and responsible way. I am going to do this in as frank and as informal a way as possible, and in the knowledge that I have not really had very much time to prepare what I am saying to you to-day.

It will not, I know, be news to you if I suggest that the primary necessity to-day is for the free nations to get closer together, to co-operate and to stand together. I think that is especially true at this particular moment when great efforts are being made to divide us by those who fear our unity even more, I think, than they fear our strength; and who are now trying to convince us that no threat to our security exists from Communist imperialism and, therefore, that we do not have to spend so much on defence, or indeed to accept the leadership of the United States in the name of collective security.

We know, and we should not forget, that the danger does remain and would very greatly and quickly increase, if friends and allies - especially the United States and the United Kingdom - began to divide and fall apart. Any words or gestures which lead that way are a victory for the forces of aggressive Communism and a defeat for peace.

I am not sure myself that the greatest danger to this kind of co-operation and unity which is so essential to-day is not to be found in a serious divergence of policies in Korea and the Far East.

Fundamental to this question and this danger, and deeper and more important even than the immediate Korean difficulties, is the policy that the free world should adopt to the Chinese Communist regime in Peking. There is, I think, no disagreement over what we should do, or at least what our obligations are, when, as in Korea, the Communist regime commits open aggression declared as such by the United Nations. We oppose it. We are under an obligation to oppose it even though we may sometimes differ as to methods and sometimes as to the limits of our opposition.