

Natural resources and the development of those resources which Canada has achieved have helped to give us a prestige out of all proportion to the size of our population. Our sacrifices in two world wars, and then in recent years in securing the peace in Korea, the Middle East and Indochina, have added to that prestige; our contributions, of which I will speak later, toward raising the standard of living in various parts of the world, and our contributions toward the alleviation of want and suffering have, too, enabled Canada to speak with confidence and authority.

Moreover, I think we bring to the consideration of the solution of international problems peculiar qualities which Canadians possess. We are the heirs of a European civilization, and I would think, having regard to the development of our national scene, that we have a national, or perhaps I should say a natural, tendency and gift for compromise. We are possessed of an idealism which has been somewhat modified by the skepticism which Canadians must have when they realize that the solution of any problem cannot come about by miracles but only as the result of persistent and hard endeavour.

.... It is with these encouraging yet challenging thoughts in mind that I take up my new office as Secretary of State for External Affairs. As I enter this field I assure this House that, having regard to the firm foundations which have been laid in respect of our foreign affairs by successive governments, I will endeavour to build on these foundations and, as a member of this Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, I will do my best to help in building something distinctive and valuable upon these foundations.

In this context it is clear that Canada must seek to understand the aspirations of other countries; Canada must endeavour to apprehend the motives of other nations, whether they be ill or good, and work closely with friendly nations. But all the while Canadians must think for themselves, and Canada's foreign policy should not be merely a pale reflection of the views of other countries.

UNITED NATIONS

My first assignment after I became a member of the Government was to go to the United Nations. I think that was an excellent introduction for me because it enabled me to study at first hand, at the beginning of my political and diplomatic career, the machinery, the aspirations and the objectives of that great Organization.

There was in the United Nations, I found, a curiosity with respect to the attitude of the new government in Canada toward the Organization, and I can best describe the views of this Government by repeating to this House the words of the Prime Minister when he spoke to the General Assembly on