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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

MR. PEARSON ON TRADE: "It is futile to urge European countries to break down political and economic barriers which stand in the way of their own unity and collective strength, if, across the Atlantic, we erect or maintain similar or greater barriers against their products, or against each other," said the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in addressing the annual dinner meeting of the Dominion Marine Association and Lake Carriers' Association at the Seigniory Club, Que., on January 21.

Mr. Pearson spoke, in part, as follows on trade matters:

"In the recent economic progress which has been made in Canada, the United States has had an important role to play, and one of mutual benefit. By the end of 1951, she had a \$7% billion investment in Canada and, in that year, a market here for nearly \$3 billion worth of her goods. Canada is now the largest single customer of the United States, buying from the United States about as much as the entire continent of South America. The trade figures in the opposite direction show that the United States, with a population over ten times as large as Canada, bought last year about \$500 million less from Canada than we bought from the United States. This is something we should think about; and try to do something about.

"But our interest in trade is not merely

continental; it also includes, for both of us, the rest of the free world. For Canada, we spend about % of our total income on imports and about the same proportion of our total production goes into exports. While foreign trade is relatively of less importance to the United States, its huge volume is of major importance for the other friendly countries with which the United States is associated. The policies which the United States pursues in respect of that trade will, in fact, largely determine the economic well-being and political stability of all those countries.

"In a speech which I made at Houston, Texas, last summer I made the following statement:

'I can assure you that we in Canada wish to see international trade easier, and not less easy, both on this continent and throughout the free world. We are prepared to do our part to this end and specifically to support any move designed to bring about the freest possible exchange of goods, with the minimum of obstructions and restrictions between our own two countries. We would welcome any steps that could be taken in that direction or any inter-governmental discussions that would lead to such a result. Surely such a policy makes continental common sense!'

"Since I spoke in these terms, efforts have been made at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' recent meeting in London towards resolving the economic and financial problems of the