

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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## CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

An address by the Right Hon. Louis S. St-Laurent,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the  
Canadian Club of Toronto, November 3, 1947.

There are two reasons for my presence here today, one is that I do not get the opportunity of coming to Toronto very often but each time I do come, I am greeted with such obvious friendliness that it makes my visits very pleasant indeed.

The second is that I have always looked upon luncheon meetings of the Canadian Clubs as functions which are both interesting and stimulating because they bring us together to give our thoughts and attention, for a few moments out of our busy lives, to matters with which we are more concerned as citizens or members of our community groups than strictly as individuals.

Of course in saying that, I am referring to meetings one can attend without any other concern than that of sitting back comfortably and listening to what somebody else has to say. Of course too, when I got your invitation, Mr. President, I knew I could come here only at the cost of having to make a speech myself, but nevertheless I accepted at once and decided that I would take advantage of the occasion to say something about the activities of the Department of External Affairs.

I make no apology for selecting such a topic because the impact of things which happen outside of Canada upon our Canadian economy and our domestic policies has become so great and so direct that External Affairs are in a very true sense a part and an aspect of our own Canadian affairs. Some of you will remember that the Prime Minister made a statement to that effect here in Toronto when he attended the re-opening of your great Exhibition in August last. He said:

"Whether we like it or not, Canada's opportunities and responsibilities have ceased to be mainly national. They have become largely international. National trade has become increasingly a part of international trade, national progress a part of world progress, national peace and security, a part of the security and peace of the world."

The growth in this country of a sense of political responsibility on an international scale has been an inevitable consequence of international events. These events have, time and again, made it necessary for us to decide on major questions of participation in international organizations both in peace and war, whether we would be in, or whether we would try to remain out.