



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/26

### CANADA AND THE KOREAN SITUATION

An address by Mr. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, before a joint meeting of The Engineering Institute of Canada and The American Society of Civil Engineers in Toronto, on July 14, 1950.

The engineering profession is one which must arouse envy in the minds of those of us who are engaged in more abstract activities. You engineers know where you stand in respect of any particular problem. You know the materials with which you have to deal and how they will act. You know the precise allowances and adjustments that have to be made and, as a result, you can, in normal circumstances, count on the result being achieved which you have planned. Yours is an exact science. It is very different from work in the political or social sciences where forces are fluid and materials elastic; where circumstances are continually changing and, therefore, conclusions from them have to be changed; where you can never be sure that you will end up even approximately near the goal that you set when you began your planning. Nowhere is this more apparent than in international affairs, and it accounts to some extent for the frustrations and disappointments and failures which we who work in this field have to face so often. It is, however, with these international matters, difficult and even dangerous as it is to talk about them with any assurance or finality, that I wish to deal tonight; more particularly developments arising out of the aggression committed a fortnight or so ago on the Republic of Korea.

I confess that on this occasion I had hoped to talk about a subject which would be more closely related to your profession - that of the developing and expanding international programmes of technical assistance to undeveloped areas - a problem which is an engineering one as well as a political one; whose solution by international action can mean so much for peace and well-being, by putting the less developed countries on the road to a better standard of living and by showing them how to help themselves along that road.

At the moment, however, the subject of Korea and the threat it involves to peace, is in all our minds, and I think that you would expect me to say something about it.

There is no doubt that the Korean situation does involve a serious threat to general peace, but not in the sense that the Communists and their dupes in Canada and in other countries mean. Since United Nations intervention in Korea to stop aggression, a planned, purposeful campaign of deception has been launched by the Communists - under Cominform direction - using as their agency the spurious "peace movements" which they have organized and fostered in various countries. The object of this campaign - which is being conducted with skill, vigour and complete lack of scruple - is to convince people that intervention in Korea is a blow at peace and that our motto should therefore be, "Hands Off Korea". It is a sad commentary on human gullibility that the aggressive imperial policy of a great Slav despotism should be able to harness to its own political aims the highest and noblest sentiment in man - the love of peace and the desire to secure it. Believe me, there is no genuine peace ideal in these Communist "peace" campaigns. If there were, all Canadians and Americans - indeed all free men - would back them to the limit. The fact is that the word "peace" has been debased and is being utilized by the Communists for their own belligerent purposes. This so-called "dove" - Mr. Dean Acheson has called it a Trojan dove - which has been