



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 52/11 SOME ASPECTS OF CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

Text of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, to the Canadian Society, New York, March 7, 1952.

I recall that when I had the pleasure of speaking at your dinner on February 3, 1945, which seems a long way back now, I began with the following words:

"Any individual, who is bold enough to say or write anything about international affairs in these touchy times should weigh his words honestly, carefully, and responsibly."

Seven years later, your guest once again, I shall try to follow my own advice.

When I was here last, I also talked about the close and friendly relations between the two great North American democracies. They remain close and friendly and we must keep them that way. This will require, on our part in Canada, an appreciation of the enormous responsibilities, the Atlantean burden, which this country is shouldering in the struggle to keep men free from the aggressive menace of Soviet Communist imperialism. It will require on the part of the United States, knowledge and understanding of Canada, its present position and its potential greatness.

We in Canada sometimes complain that Americans don't know enough about our country and its people. These complaints occasionally get amusing evidence to support them; such as the proposal of a Chicago Congressman that England should "sell" Canada to the United States, and any war debts should be a credit against the purchase. That proposal resulted in a letter reaching me from New York from someone who apparently was a bit disgruntled about the Administration here because it ran as follows:

"My dear Minister Pearson:

"I see where you turned down Rep. Sheehan's proposal, we annex Canada to the U.S.A.

"I have a better offer. I propose the U.S.A. buy Canada at any cost, money is no object, you will bear me out on this, and we pass a constitutional amendment to move the capital to Ottawa, and only Canadian born will be allowed to hold office from President and the Cabinet, down.

"I do hope, this offer will interest you."