



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, before the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, November 1955.

I am glad to be back in India again after nearly six years and to have the opportunity - my first - to address this distinguished Council. This fine new building is a testimonial to the public spirited support enjoyed by the Council and of the high regard with which it is held. It is an honour to appear before you and I have been touched by the warmth of your welcome.

In the past ten days I have travelled over nearly half of this country. I have seen your great city of Calcutta; your mighty ramparts, the Himalayas; the holy city of Benares, which is older than history, and I have crossed the vast Gangetic Plain. But ten days is not enough; not even enough to explore New Delhi or the seven cities which have preceded it on this location. Nevertheless, you will forgive, I trust, the passing guest from drawing at least one firm conclusion from a short visit. I know now that India and Canada have at least one characteristic in common - magnitude. We both have a great deal of geography - though you have, of course, much more history and so many more millions of people than we have.

May I add also that even my brief visit to India has revealed to me something of the ravages wrought by the floods which this year have been unprecedented in both extent and intensity. On behalf of the Canadian people I want to express my deepest sympathy with all those who have lost so much and who have endured and who must continue to endure the hardships and miseries which flood losses inevitably entail.

I did not have to come to India to know that the Indian and Canadian people were friendly to each other. If we were not, the relationship between our two countries could not have been so firmly based on that close co-operation which exists even when it doesn't always lead to specific agreement. With India we try to make our co-operation both positive and helpful. This is freely reciprocated on your part with beneficial results which, I believe, stretch beyond our respective boundaries.

There are, of course, such profound and obvious differences between our two countries that one may be pardoned for wondering what we have in common. We have much in common, however. There are many practical as well as abstract things that draw us together. Tonight I wish to mention only two factors which our peoples share in