



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 47/13

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

An address by Mr. L. B. Pearson,
at the Directors' International Day
Luncheon, Canadian National
Exhibition, Toronto, September 2, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Gentlemen:

In the first place, Mr. Chairman, may I thank you for your introduction. It was neat, but thank goodness it was not gaudy. May I also express to you, Mr. Chairman, my pleasure at the invitation to appear here today; a pleasure not in the prospect of this speech but in the prospect of seeing the Exhibition after the speech. From about the age of six until sixteen or seventeen, I never missed a "Childrens Day" at the Ex. I arrived early in the morning with my dollar and left late in the evening with nothing. In those days, a dollar went a little further than it does today. Also, in those earlier days, my enjoyment of the day was not spoilt by the looming shadow of a speech to be made. However, in fifteen or twenty minutes, you will be glad to know, I will get that shadow out of the way and I will then be able to enjoy myself thoroughly.

I have been wondering, the last day or two, what I ought to speak about. Normally, when I am asked to address a distinguished audience, I am cautious enough to write out a speech so that I will not get myself, or even possibly the Government, for whom I work as a Civil Servant, into trouble. Unfortunately, the last week I have been on a holiday, and a holiday is no time in which to write a speech. So I am just going to burden you with a few random, and I am afraid, rather disconnected remarks.

The Chairman has reminded you and me that I am a son of the manse. I am not only a son of the parsonage, which is another kind of manse, but I am also a grandson of the parsonage. I remember my grandfather very well indeed. He was a great preacher. But at times, even he wondered what he was going to preach about. When he got into those difficulties, no sermon prepared, my grandmother always used to say to him "Give them that sermon on Heaven". Well, when I was wondering yesterday what I should say, my family, equally helpful, said "Give them that sermon on the United Nations". Not that there is necessarily any similarity at the moment, between Heaven and the United Nations. However, even if the United Nations were not a subject about which I am accustomed to speak, it would, for one reason at least, be a good one for me. I am a Civil Servant, and of course I shouldn't talk about politically controversial subjects. The United Nations, in Canada, is not such a subject. But, apart from that, it would seem to me to be quite appropriate to talk about the United Nations and international co-operation on this particular day at the Exhibition, International Day.