



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/11 THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COLD WAR FOR CANADA

Text of a speech by Mr. L.S. St. Laurent,  
Prime Minister of Canada, to the Canadian  
Club, in Toronto, on March 27, 1950.

....I have described my topic as "Canada's part in the cold war". Perhaps a better title would be "the implications of the cold war for Canada". Now, the first thing I want to say is that there is some danger in using this phrase, "the cold war".

I am afraid it does give some people the idea that it is just the introductory phase of a shooting war. Actually our purpose -- and the purpose of all free nations in the cold war -- is first to prevent a "hot" war and ultimately to do all we can to end the cold war itself. We have to realize that this will not be an easy task. And we should not expect it to happen in the immediate future, or as the result of some dramatic incident.

We cannot have real and lasting peace until there is some degree of mutual confidence and trust between nations. Events have demonstrated that confidence will depend upon a sincere and radical change in the attitude of Soviet Russia to the rest of the world. Such a change is not going to come overnight, if it comes at all in our lifetime.

Meanwhile the free world has to be prepared to go on probably for years maintaining its security through its own strength. Of course that does not mean exclusively maintaining military strength, though military strength on a scale not contemplated before in peacetime is obviously necessary. That, however, is not what I want to emphasize today.

The point I want to make is that it is just as important for us to show the world that democracy, free democracy, not the kind the Communists talk about, is a better way of life which can provide, in addition to economic and industrial strength and material things in abundance, a faith to inspire all men to live in peace and contentment with one another. If we can maintain this kind of strength, those who oppose us now may, in time, decide it is wiser "to live and let live". They may reach this position by concluding that if they started a war they would be apt to lose it. But ultimate victory will come only when the people behind the iron curtain see that their system as opposed to ours, will not meet either the material or the spiritual needs of mankind.

In the face of the menace of military aggression, the peace-loving nations must have strong military defences. But we must also devote ourselves to the positive task of increasing our economic, political and social strength and