

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

VERNMENT



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/9

THE CIVIL SERVANT AND THE STATE

An address by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, before the Professional Institute of the Civil Service of Canada, in Ottawa, on March 25, 1950.

I have had some difficulty in thinking of a subject which would fit this occasion. I recall that last year my Deputy addressed you in what I thought was a very interesting and thought-provoking speech - on the position of the civil servant in relation to--shall I say?--the political servant. Having experienced both roles myself, that of the bureaucrat and the politician, I am tempted to talk about the reverse relationship of the political to the official side of government. I will, however, resist that temptation because I wish to discuss with you another, but related problem which is of grave concern to us all - that is, the effect on the relationship between the civil servant and his employer, the government, of the concerted Communist attack which is today being made upon the free world.

This whole question - which tends to dominate so much of our life today - is of particular concern to the teacher, the student, the researcher, the government employee; to people who can only work effectively in that atmosphere of free enquiry, which is the very life blood of achievement.

We live in difficult and trying times, of serious problems, individual and collective, national and international. Certainly one of the most worrying of these is the reconciliation of individual freedom and group security. This problem becomes more important and more difficult as we become increasingly conscious of the threat to our free society - and to our individual liberty - of communism as the instrument of Soviet imperialism. If the communist system ever triumphed here, it would of course, destroy most of the things that make society of any value to the individual. This, as a domestic problem is serious enough and involves perplexing problems for government and for the individual.

So - even as an exclusively domestic issue - the struggle against communism would be serious enough; just about the most serious issue of the day. But the situation becomes infinitely more dangerous when we know, as we do know, that those who lead the communist forces in our country - and in other countries - are not inspired by feelings of patriotism for a national cause - however wrong and misguided - but are the agents - open and unabashed - of a foreign imperialism, masquerading under the guise of international communism. Canada, to these men, means nothing except as a satellite state of a communist Russia, the leaders of which are now merely Russian despots, using new methods to spread Slav influence and power over the world.

Those, therefore, who follow communism in this country are not only propagating a reactionary economic and social doctrine, but are, as well, the agents of an alien aggressive imperialism. This we must never forget, though every effort