



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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SPECIAL CANADIAN - U.S. RELATIONS IN THE
ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

Address by the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson,
Prime Minister of Canada, to the Pilgrims of the
United States, New York, November 6, 1963.

The Pilgrim Fathers have been described as those who came from the Old World to remove forever the mystery of the New. We in Canada share in many ways the Pilgrim tradition, but we have added to its Puritan content a gay and Gallic variation.

One part of our historical, linguistic and cultural background derives from the story of those who came to New France about the time the Pilgrim Fathers came to New England. Quebec was founded in the year 1608, Plymouth Rock unveiled in 1620. The United Empire Loyalists provided another important Canadian link with your early history. In that significant migration, the 13 colonies lost, and Canada gained, many worthy descendants of the Pilgrims.

Your society has, for 60 years, provided an important forum for discussion of mutual interests and international responsibilities in that region which we now know and others often refer to, perhaps optimistically, as the Atlantic Community. With your counterpart, organized in London in 1902, you have epitomized the ever-increasing measure of Anglo-American friendship which has become a solid foundation for the creation and maintenance of a free and democratic Atlantic society. I pay my tribute to your contribution to that friendship and especially, if I may, to your President, who has added to his services in this field important and constructive contributions to better United States - Canadian understanding.

However, as Governor Rockefeller has just said, an Anglo-American axis is not enough. It must be as a stage to something even bigger, embracing the Atlantic Community, and become a part of an Atlantic axis, an Atlantic Community.

The Atlantic Community

This Community, at least in its institutional expressions, has lately been marking time. This is unfortunate, because in this matter we cannot stand still. If we don't move forward, we will slide backwards. Moving forward means bringing Western Europe and North America closer together politically and economically; it means rejecting not only the Channel but the Atlantic as a line which divides the constituent nations into separate groups. "Thus far, and no further" doesn't make any sense, here.