

What a true measure of Canada and Canadians it is, that virtually in the shadow of the Peace Tower, we now have three outstanding mementoes to our role in the continuing efforts to establish peace throughout the world.

It would be ideal if the concept of peace was as clearly engrained in the minds of our children and grandchildren, as the scars of war are engrained on the millions who have suffered from its horrors in this Twentieth Century.

I think of the millions of refugees throughout the world who are unable to return to their countries of origin.

I think of the children who are trained to shoot a gun, but cannot read a book or do basic calculations.

I think of Nobel Peace Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi -- the courageous leader of Myanmar's National League for Democracy -- who is under house arrest, unable to lead her people because of a repressive military regime.

Lester Pearson contemplated a world of peace throughout his lifetime and in 1968 explained that: "It is not good enough to think of peace as merely the absence of war. Peace is progress, peace is growth and development. Peace is welfare and dignity for all people."

There are important thoughts for all of us as we enter a new era of international relations. May those ideas inspire all of us to seek out the means for ensuring lasting peace throughout the world.