



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Text of an address by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Walter Harris, delivered at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, February 19, 1952.

In undertaking a study of Canadian foreign policy, one should first examine the basis or principles on which that policy is founded. The present Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. St. Laurent, in a lecture at the University of Toronto in 1947 listed five basic principles of Canadian foreign policy. These were:

1. Preservation of national unity;
2. Belief in political liberty;
3. Respect for the rule of law in national and international affairs;
4. Respect for the values of a Christian civilization;
5. The acceptance of international responsibility.

In examining the application of these principles to Canadian foreign policy, the Prime Minister explained that no policy could be truly national, nor for that matter workable, unless it were first of all acceptable to the major sections of the community. The achievement of national unity in both domestic and foreign policies has raised special problems in Canada, owing to the co-existence of two major ethnic groups, both of which have played an essential part in our national development. The concept of political liberty has come down to us from our French-English heritage and has gradually developed during the transition of our country from the status of a colony to that of a completely independent nation. The rule of law in national affairs, not only in Canada but in your country and any other democracy, has grown so familiar that there is constant danger that we take it for granted; nevertheless, a grim reminder of the importance of the rule of law is the evil and chaos which a denial of it in the international sphere has twice brought to the world during the first half of this century. We respect the values of a Christian civilization because, to quote Mr. St. Laurent, those values lay emphasis on "the importance of the individual, on the place of moral principles in the conduct of human relations, on standards of judgment which transcend mere material well-being". Finally, an external policy negative in character is unrealistic at present. We must play our part with others in the formation and conduct of international organizations aimed at preserving the peace.