



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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ASPECTS OF CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Excerpts from a statement by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons on November 26, 1957.

I know the people of this country are indeed interested in the foreign policy of Canada.... and I also know that other governments are equally interested in the actions and policies of this Government. We have been considering in this House, and we shall be considering in this House, matters of great moment which might be described as domestic or national. I am not discounting in any measure the importance and significance of these matters when I observe that the solution of the grave problems which confront the nations of the world in 1957 has a practical bearing on the health and happiness of Canadians and on the welfare and progress of Canada.

We cannot expect in this field of external affairs to find ready made solutions. Only the eradication of fear and the establishment of mutual confidence among the nations will provide the basic solution, and the government will endeavour in every way to bring this about. Second, to bring about this state of affairs we shall need steadiness, strength and patience.

In view of the fact that today I am making my first statement on foreign policy, and having regard to the fact that there are many new members of the House, freshmen like myself, I propose to outline in somewhat general terms some of the relations and relationships of Canada with other nations. In common with Canadians of all political persuasions I take pride in the advancement of our country to a position of respect and influence in the international field. We are regarded as a leading country of middle-status in the world. Our role is an important one in the Commonwealth, in the affairs of the United Nations, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and in all the other various organizations to which Canada adheres. That is a position which Canada has attained by reason of its growing strength, its sense of responsibility and its willingness to accept responsibility; and I believe it is also due to the exercise by Canadians of a certain wisdom and maturity of judgment.