



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

56/35

SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENTCanadian Participation in the United Nations
Emergency Force in the Middle East; Hungary

Excerpts from a statement by the Hon. L.B. Pearson,
Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the Fourth
(Special) Session of Parliament, on November 27, 1956.

We are facing today a situation of gravity and danger, far too serious a situation to be dealt with from a purely partisan point of view. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat talked about Canada being the chore boy of the United States. Our record over the last years, Mr. Speaker, gives us the right to say we have performed and will perform no such role. It is bad to be a chore boy of the United States. It is equally bad to be a colonial chore boy running around shouting "Ready, aye, ready". A well-known Conservative newspaper, the Ottawa Journal, in commenting the policy of the government at the United Nations in recent days, a policy of care and restraint as it was characterized, a policy of consideration for its friends, ended an editorial on this subject on October 31 as follows:

At best, we are going to be in very great danger of all-out war for some time now. We must learn to think before we chatter.

Chattering instead of thinking--if we fail because of idle chatter and not enough thought in our efforts to resolve the problems that face us today in this country and in the world, it will not make much difference who has the halos or who has been humiliated.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have an amendment to the motion. I might as well say at once--and this will be no surprise to the House--that I think it is an amendment worthy of no support at all. It is unaccurate in its facts, as I shall hope to prove, and it is wrong in its conclusions.