



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## PEOPLES WANT PEACE, NOT PROPAGANDA

Address by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker  
before the United Nations General Assembly,  
September 26, 1960.

Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you on your election. I know that the United Nations General Assembly will benefit greatly from your wisdom, experience and independent judgement, qualities which are so essential in the discharge of those responsibilities that are yours, and may I add, Sir, that one-tenth of Canada's population is of Irish origin and they ask me to convey to you a particular word of congratulation.

I wish as well to join in welcoming the newly-elected member states. I know that they will derive benefit and advantage from their membership in this organization, as the United Nations will benefit from their participation in its work and activities. It is particularly significant that 13 of these new member states are in Africa, a continent in which great changes are taking place and which today holds the centre of the world's stage. I know all of us of the older members of this organization will agree that we have a responsibility to assist these new member states in solving the challenging problems with which they are faced.

Their addition to our membership is a reminder of the need for the Assembly to consider enlarging the Economic and Social Council and the numerical strength of the Security Council, so that all geographical areas may receive adequate representation.

I wish now to speak of the present Assembly. To some observers the Assembly in the past week gave the appearance of being a circus and a drama of personalities. Whatever their views, this fact stands out, that this is the most important and most representative gathering of the world and national leaders in all history. This meeting symbolizes the bringing together of the cultures and philosophies of all races. It is our responsibility to ensure that out of this meeting shall come a testament to the capacity of rational men to achieve rational relations, to bring about the attainment of peace and to practise brotherhood and the raising of standards everywhere in the world. To the new members I say this. As one coming from Canada, I say that the United