



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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OUR UNIVERSITIES AND CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Translation of an address by the Prime Minister, Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, at Laval University on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations, Quebec, September 22, 1952.

...This evening when, with the participation of impressive foreign delegations, you are crowning a year of celebration in which Laval's role in our Canadian civilization has been so often and so justly praised, I should like to say in a few words how certain lessons lavished by Laval on our youth may equally well inspire with profit the international action of Canada, assist her in finding its deeper meaning and serve our objectives of world peace. I am sure that, in so doing, I am remaining true to the line of thought of our founder, Bishop Laval, who, as history tells us, was filled with the missionary spirit, a spirit of charity which knew no boundaries and would not be impeded by differences of race or tongue.

When I was Secretary of State for External Affairs, I once attempted to define the underlying principles of our Canadian foreign policy. I made this survey for a study group of another great Canadian university, the University of Toronto, whose chancellor is Canada's Governor General and who, in the other sector of our national culture, is pursuing a work similar to that of Laval.

I said then that a Canadian foreign policy which, during the period of its elaboration, did not take into account the requirements of national unity and of our historic association in the Commonwealth of British nations, would be unacceptable to Canadians. Once I had posed these two essential conditions, I added that this policy was being worked out at present primarily in terms of a conception of liberty and the defence of liberty shared by all nations of the West. I believe that these remarks apply equally well to our position in 1952. And there would be no reason for returning to the subject today if this were not a particularly appropriate opportunity for noting the support which our Canadian universities are giving, in proportion to their means, to that policy to which all the citizens of this country are deeply committed.

Our universities, like those of the great nations which are so brilliantly represented here, are sources of national inspiration. I can, all the more, pay tribute to this role since I have just come back from a trip to several provinces of the country where I had the pleasure of meeting people who belong to university circles. The youngest, like the oldest, universities know how to respond to the needs of the various classes in which their influence is felt, without betraying in any respect the traditions which they inherit from their English and European origins. I am not so far removed myself from my years of teaching law at Laval that I do not realize how difficult it can be at