



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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TOWARD JUSTICE, AMITY, CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES

Speech by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
at the Brotherhood Banquet of the Beth
Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, Toronto,
May 5, 1969.

...There is a cynical view of foreign ministers and those who engage in international affairs. I recall to your mind, for example, the famous definition of the ambassador as an honest man sent abroad to lie for the good of his country. Plato, himself, conceded that government leaders should have the privilege of lying, either at home or abroad, for the good of the state.

So you will see why, as a foreign minister, I feel so honoured to be asked to be among those who seek to promote justice, amity, co-operation and understanding among peoples. It is a rare tribute, and one that I shall always cherish.

You can well believe that, in carrying out their duties, foreign ministers, however well intentioned and however dedicated they may be to the promotion of justice, amity, co-operation and understanding among peoples, are often faced with moral dilemmas and difficult choices. This is true even of the Foreign Minister of Canada, one of the most fortunate of countries, free from foreign occupation, internal revolution and involvement in foreign wars.

How can this country best promote justice, amity, co-operation and understanding among peoples?

My relatively short experience in this office has taught me at least one thing, and that is that it is not sufficient simply to be in favour of these good things or to make eloquent speeches in favour of them.