



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA IN THE SPACE AGE

Notes of a speech by Mr. J.G. Diefenbaker, the Prime Minister of Canada, at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, on May 15, 1959.

The world stands on the threshold of the space age. It is proper that one should ask today: "Where does Canada stand in the quest for knowledge of the uncharted wonders that lie beyond?" "What are Canada's potentialities?" "What can Canada achieve in collaboration with others?" "What practical benefits can accrue to Canadians and to mankind as these new regions and scientific knowledge are explored?" These are questions about which it is possible to speak, if not with certainty, at least on the basis of evidence which is accumulating every day.

It seems appropriate that on this occasion I share with you some thoughts and speculations about the future, with special attention to the realm of outer space and the ways in which it may be utilized for the betterment of man. As students at a military college, you have undoubtedly been aware of the new and exciting developments in science which have taken place in recent years. Your training and your curriculum have been adapted to meet the changes brought about by the march of science and engineering. It is the hope of your instructors that your minds have also been adapted to meet the changes which are being brought about by the almost incredible technological developments of the world in which we live.

On another occasion over a year ago, I stated that the exploration of space, whether by manned or unmanned instruments, has military potentialities as well as civilian benefits. The promotion and establishment of the rule of law now is necessary and outer space should belong to the world as a whole. Jurisdiction should be vested in the United Nations to assure that it will be used for scientific and peaceful purposes only. All nations, great or small, should have equal territorial rights, and the launching of all space missiles should be preceded by notification that the benefits accruing will be available to all mankind.