



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 56/13 BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN NATIONS - THE COLOMBO PLAN

Excerpts from an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, to the Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood, Toronto, February 20, 1956.

My pleasure at being with you this evening is increased by the realization that I am joining you in the celebration of Brotherhood Week. This week reminds us in a special way, though we should, of course, be aware of it every week, of our obligation to each other, to our community, and to our country in promoting the ideals of brotherhood and fellowship. Until these ideals are realized, based as they must be on tolerance and friendliness, on equality and non-discrimination, this country cannot become truly great; no matter how much our national income may increase each year, or how successfully our natural resources are developed. The surest foundation of a country's greatness lies in its human resources, and these can never minister to that greatness if there is racial or clan prejudice or arrogance; if there is disunity and suspicion between section and section, class and class, government and government.

Canada has been fortunate in these non-material aspects of our development but we have not, of course, fully achieved the ideal of brotherhood and unity which we have set before us. Our difficulties at home in this regard give some indication of the magnitude and complexity of the infinitely greater problems of brotherhood between nations, that gleaming vision of all good men. These problems are in all truth great enough to daunt even the most optimistic; even between nations which have basically similar values and background. They are far greater in the case of peoples of different civilizations, different traditions and ways of living. They become almost insuperable when they are between the Communist and non-Communist world, where a great gulf of ignorance and misunderstanding and fear separates those who must somehow, sometime, live together in peaceful co-operation, which is something different from peaceful co-existence, if this world is to survive at all.