



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Address by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, Ottawa, February 19, 1957.

I have been wondering what I should talk about tonight. Probably you would like to hear from me, not about your profession, but about my own profession, which, certainly on an occasion like this, is not politics but diplomacy and international affairs. I know that you are interested in this because international affairs affect the life of your communities. It was not very long ago in Canada that these matters seemed very remote from us, remote from the small communities in which we lived, but we have learned since 1914, or we should have learned, that what happens in Korea affects Main Street, what happens in places called Sharm-el-Shaikh and Gaza (names which we used to hear occasionally in our Sunday School lessons) often have a very deep and immediate meaning for the life of our own country and our own community. I know that your interest in these matters is just as great as mine, for I also know that many members of your Association travelled, under the sponsorship and chaperonage of Mr. McCormick, to Europe not so very long ago. I hope that the interest which you already had in international affairs was enlivened and deepened by personal experience of what is going on in other countries.

It is, of course, a healthy thing that everybody in this country, whatever we may be doing, should be interested in and concerned with international affairs and diplomacy - things that used to be far removed from the life of the average man. The permanent Head of the British Foreign Office, who wrote his memoirs a few months ago, said -- I was reading his book a little while ago -- that in a world where war is everybody's tragedy and everybody's nightmare, diplomacy is everybody's business. And so it is. I assure you that the tempo in this profession is not slow and that in following it I am, as Mr. McCormick has said, very often not close enough to my own community. But I do try whenever I get the opportunity, and this is a good opportunity, to bring the policies which we are trying to follow, the ideas which we have in the Government