



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## CANADA IN THE WORLD

Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sidney E. Smith, to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton, Ontario, February 4, 1958.

I intend to look back tonight on the five crowded months since I entered the Government as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I hope that you may find it of some interest if I give to you a few impressions of my portfolio and a few thoughts on some of its problems.

I am well aware that there is no field of human endeavour which has such an attraction for grandstand quarterbacks as this field of foreign affairs. I know, because I was one myself not long ago, and I am sure that many, if not all, of you are. Far from complaining about this, I hope that you are! Your views help to fashion our foreign policy. We need your interest; we need your views.

Indeed, since I moved from Toronto to Ottawa, I have been deeply impressed by the intensity of this public interest. I had of course been aware that international affairs have become increasingly a subject of popular attention and concern. And I had also of course been conscious of Parliament's growing pre-occupation with our external relations. But I was not prepared for -- indeed I was surprised and sobered by -- the size of a Foreign Minister's mailbag, by the variety of its contents, and above all, by the depth of concern for the state of the world which is revealed so clearly, often poignantly, in this correspondence.

That then is my first impression -- of the continuing surge of public interest in our external affairs. I reiterate my hope that this interest will never abate, for it promotes the survival, indeed the flowering, of what I conceive to be a fundamental element in the formulation and conduct of policy -- that the Government should know what is in the public mind, and that the public mind should understand what the Government is seeking to do.