



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/39

ROADS TO RESOURCES

Notes of Speech prepared for delivery to the Canadian Good Roads Association by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada in Montreal, October 2, 1958.

... From the earliest historical times good roads have been one of the marks of a successful society. The remains of the Appian Way, the Flaminian Way, and other great roads constructed by the ancient Romans still stand as monuments to a highly developed civilization.

A few years ago the International Road Federation of the United States made a survey of highway facilities and needs of many countries for the Technical Co-operation Administration of the United States as a guide for assistance to underdeveloped countries.

In the introduction to this survey by Mr. Horace Bushnell, the following excerpts appear:

"If there is any kind of advancement going on, if new ideas are abroad and new hopes arising, then you will see it by the roads that are building. Nothing makes an inroad without making a road.....The economic and social value of highways must be given top consideration in the development of any country.....Roads are essential to give access to the untapped wealth, mineral forest and agricultural, of any country because they are most vital to integration and social and economic progress of a nation".

The importance of good roads has been amply confirmed by history and even today in the context of the Twentieth Century, with all the fantastic means of transportation available to us - of which trans-polar trips by nuclear submarines and excursions into outer space are the most recent and dramatic illustrations, good roads continue to be an essential factor in national progress and development.