



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE CONDUCT OF CANADIAN DIPLOMACY

An address by Mr. A.D.P. Heeney,
Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs, delivered to
the Canadian Club in Toronto,
on January, 30, 1950.

There is a strong tradition in British countries that civil servants do not make speeches on subjects of public controversy, in the sphere of politics at least. This is a sound tradition and one which for the most part is honoured in this country. But that is no reason, as I see it, why public officials should not take opportunities such as this to explain what we're doing for our living - for your money - and in so doing, to describe to such as will listen, the work of our departments of Government.

For my part, I welcome this chance to address the Toronto Canadian Club on "The Conduct of Canadian Diplomacy", in fact about the Department of External Affairs.

In speaking about my Department, I am, in one way, more fortunate than many of my colleagues in the Civil Service. For the conduct of Canada's external affairs, Canada's foreign policy, is not, in the ordinary sense, a matter of party politics. It is, I think, true to say that the Government's policies in external matters are Canadian policies supported by the members of all political parties. Of course, to some extent politicians are at variance in these matters. But when they vary, it is usually in the emphasis they give to aspects of policy rather than in substance. Of course, the Government may be criticized for its administration or for its conduct in certain situations. But, speaking generally, foreign policy is not a subject upon which Canadians are divided. And the last session of Parliament demonstrated a remarkable degree of unanimity on the major issues with which this nation is confronted in her contacts with the outside world.

Nevertheless, I have not come before you to discuss policy. That is the business of Ministers - at any rate, of politicians - it is not the business of bureaucrats. Rather I propose to draw attention to some of the reasons why Canada needs a diplomatic service, and to describe to you something of the working machinery of Canadian diplomacy.

For what purpose does Canada maintain Embassies and Legations and High Commissioners' Offices in some thirty-three countries all over the world? What returns do the Canadian people receive for the not inconsiderable sums which Parliament has voted these past few years for the Department of External

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