



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 54/47 THE CHALLENGE OF CO-EXISTENCE

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at the Economic Club, Detroit, Michigan, November 8, 1954.

We cannot escape the challenge of what is called "co-existence", because we live in a divided world, and under the menacing shadow of a thermo-nuclear cloud.

In the narrow, and often misleading meaning which has been given to it by the policy-makers in the Kremlin, co-existence is a thin and sterile word, without any of the warmth and the life, the mutual respect and esteem, implicit in such a word as "co-operation".

The people of these friendly neighbouring cities of Detroit and Windsor will quickly and easily understand and appreciate the gulf that lies between these two words, co-existence and co-operation. It would be a drab and poor relationship if Detroit and Windsor merely co-existed; if all the neighbourly, constructive, and enriching elements of your joint lives were replaced by a mere tolerance of each other across a river. Fortunately, there is no possibility of such an unhappy development.

There is also another happy example of co-existence but on a wider scale which includes close and constructive co-operation. It is found in the relationship between our two nations.

There are no two countries whose relations are closer and more friendly than those between the United States and Canada, or where the obligations and the advantages of good neighbourhood are more obvious. This is a case where continental co-existence requires and secures continental co-operation. That co-operation rests - indeed it can only securely and satisfactorily rest - on partnership. Our - the Canadian side of the partnership - the smaller but rapidly growing side - must, of course, recognize the far greater world responsibilities which, thank God, you have accepted, and for no selfish, merely national purpose. We recognize and salute as well, your massive and essential contribution to collective security and the maintenance of peace. This recognition imposes on us the duty of weighing carefully the effect of everything we say or do, when it differs with your policy, on the unity of the great coalition for peace of which we are both members. But this doesn't mean that our response to your policies will be automatic. We are not automatons. Nor does it mean that we are to be gagged in the expression of our own views. We don't gag easily! But it does mean that Canada has an obligation -