



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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### WORLD BROTHERHOOD

Address by the Honourable L.B. Pearson, Prime Minister, on Receiving the "Family of Man" Award at the Award Dinner of the Society for the Family of Man, New York, November 17, 1965.

I am deeply grateful to the Society for the Family of Man and the Protestant Council of the City of New York for the very great honour you have conferred on me tonight. I accept it with pride and humility.

I accept the award also as a tribute to the country which it has been my privilege to serve for many years now, in one capacity or another....

Let me assure you - and I have had a good deal of experience with this - that my Government... will continue to do all in its power to maintain and strengthen close and neighbourly ties between your country and mine. In that closeness, in that neighbourliness, we share more things - more progress and more problems - than any other two countries in the world. We share a continent where our economies and our interests are closely related. We share, to a lesser degree, a continental culture and way of life....

We in Canada, however, do not share any desire to lose our own national identity through a continental amalgamation of our two countries. We do not wish close and friendly co-operation, which is essential, to lead to absorption, which is undesirable for both of us. In stating this as a fact, I should add that provincialism and regionalism are very strong in Canada, for historical, economic, geographic and other reasons. We recognize increasingly the danger to national unity from trends in this direction and we are making progress in combating them. For this purpose, paradoxically, the United States is one of the strongest forces making for our unity and we thank you for it. Our desire to avoid continental absorption is a great national asset in our effort to remain Canadian.

The relationship between our two countries is also the best witness to the fact that, in the world Family of Man, two states -- one the most powerful in the world, the other much smaller -- can live alongside each other as good neighbours and as the best of friends, with mutual respect and understanding....