



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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THE AIMS OF CAPITALISM

Notes from an address by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, to the International Junior Red Cross Study Centre in Toronto, on August 12, 1959.

It is my privilege, on behalf of the Canadian people, to welcome the members of the Junior Red Cross from so many countries, and their adult leaders who give guidance and counsel, many of whom are known the world over for their good works in the International Red Cross in its world crusade for brotherhood in charitable works.

This Conference is an important one representing as it does the largest youth organization in the world, with 55 million members in 72 nations, and what it has done in humanitarian works to strengthen the bonds of mutual co-operation and international friendship is respected by all nations.

This Conference is important, too, for it marks two milestones in the history of the Red Cross -- the 100th anniversary of its founding, and the 50th anniversary since its official establishment in Canada.

There has been a tremendous widening of the functions and activities of government in the field of human betterment and social welfare in the last 50 years, but governments, cannot take the place of individual effort in charitable works, and in assuring in a spirit of true humanity the substitution for the jungle spirit of survival of the fittest, of the survival of all that is finest in the spirit and soul of man.

The Red Cross has shown that nations can work together for the benefit of each and all. What the Red Cross has done gives hope that all the nations can be persuaded in a like spirit of co-operation to be their brother's keeper, irrespective of colour, race or religion, to unite in peace and for peace to remove economic inequities which are the basic cause of human suffering, and thereby to raise living standards and give new hope to hundreds of millions of human beings who regard abject poverty as inevitable and eternal.

I believe, too, that if this meeting can achieve no more than the benefits to be gained when delegates from other lands meet together, the dividends in friendship and mutual understanding that will accrue, will amply repay all the work that has been done in bringing about this meeting.