

A Canadian View of World Problems

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS, MR. HOWARD C. GREEN, TO THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS ON FEBRUARY 10, 1960

...I find that the Canadian people are very much interested in external affairs. Fortunately, or unfortunately, they are much more interested in what the Secretary of State for External Affairs says than they were in what he said as Minister of Public Works. Probably we underestimate the intense interest of the Canadian people in world affairs at the present time. After all, is it any wonder that such should be the case? Because it just may be that the whole of our civilization is at stake, depending upon what is done by the various nations.

In my remarks today I intend to deal with nine different subjects. They are disarmament, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth, Canadian-United States relations, Latin America, Canada and the Pacific, the Middle East, the United Nations, and the Law of the Sea. If I find that time is going I may possibly delay my remarks on the Law of the Sea until we get into the Committee on External Affairs.

Before going on with these nine different subjects, I have two general comments to make.

The first is that in the world today Canada has only friends and no enemies. She is a comparatively young nation with an excellent record, for which credit is due to those Canadians who have been in positions of responsibility down through the years. Canada is a nation with no designs on anyone, a nation whose people approach world affairs with an unselfish attitude, and also a nation whose people have great capacity for friendship. I repeat that Canada today has only friends and no enemies.

For this situation, too, we owe a great deal to those distinguished representatives from abroad who have come here to man the embassies and the high commissioners' offices. They keep us informed of the views of their respective countries, and they go home at the end of their term, or to another post, friends of Canada. They have played through the years a very important part in spreading goodwill for Canada throughout the world. I should like to pay that tribute to them today, and to thank the members of the present Diplomatic Corps who have been of great help to me in these last eight months.

Time for Independent Line

The second thought I should like to place before the House is that the time has come to drop the idea that Canada's role in world affairs is to be an "honest broker" between the nations. We must decide instead that our role is to be to