



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Notes for an Address by the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. L.B. Pearson, at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, June 9, 1963

... Notre Dame has many historic connections with Canada.

The Order of the Holy Cross is well-known and highly esteemed in my country, where it is engaged in the work of education to the great benefit of our people.

Canadians at Notre Dame

Notre Dame's founder, Father Sorin, as General of the Order, guided much of its early work in Canada. Your seventh President, Father Thomas Walsh, was born in Canada. For many years the enrollment at Notre Dame has included a significant number of Canadian students who have later contributed to the development of my country. ...

If you were to visit the largely French-speaking Province of Quebec, you would find the name "Notre Dame" attached to villages, hospitals, convents and churches.

In the early seventeenth century, as one of our poets put it:

"The winds of God were blowing over France,
Kindling the hearths and altars, changing
vows of rote into an alphabet of flame."

This began the French era of our history. The language and traditions and spirit of France became a part of Canada's religious, cultural and political heritage.

Many years later priests and lay brothers from France came with Father Sorin to this part of under-developed America. Here they found freedom. Like their compatriots who went to Canada, they also established a classical college. They trained young men in the arts, the humanities, the social sciences and religion. The cultivation and ennoblement of the