



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

### 59/28 SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Notes from an address by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, to the Canadian Women's Press Club in Ottawa on September 8, 1959.

Canada is represented at various international conferences and serves on many international bodies. It is the general policy of the Government to appoint women to such international conferences and bodies, and to domestic boards and commissions, especially where the subject matter is of particular concern to women.

Democracy cannot be truly effective without consultation. While the government must make the choice in all appointments and cannot abdicate its responsibility to make the choice, women's organizations can be helpful with suggestions of qualified women so that the best available will be chosen.

It is my observation that one of the most encouraging signs on the world horizon today is the keen interest being taken by women everywhere in international affairs. This of course is as it should be, because women have a particular interest in the realization of the prime objective of all international relations, which is permanent peace for mankind.

In the past, wars have been largely begun, and carried on, and concluded by men. Only in the last great World War, with perhaps a few historical exceptions, have women from all walks of life had their full-scale part to play in the armed forces of the nations. If there is another world conflict it will not be a man's war--it will almost certainly be a war in which all the men and women and children of the nations involved will be at least participants.

The glories of such a war will be small, and the sufferings large. Women know this, and that is why in our country, as in others, their voices are being heard as never before insisting that in the future there must be peaceful settlement of any