



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/26 IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPE AND ASIA

An address by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, on his recent trip to Europe and Asia, delivered to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Press, in Toronto, April 28, 1954.

When I received an invitation last October from your President, Mr. Thomson, to speak to you at this annual meeting dinner of the Canadian Press, I replied that I would be happy to be present if no urgent public business prevented me from doing so. Fortunately, no urgent matter has arisen to keep me away from this meeting, but I confess that when I sat down to prepare my notes for this evening's remarks, I almost wished something had happened to keep me from having to make any kind of a speech.

I realized, of course, you would expect me to say something about my recent world tour; and I had thought last October it would be quite easy to find something interesting I could say about it.

What I did find was that it was far from easy to do that. I realize I could not just repeat the chatty and informal report I had made to my colleagues in the House of Commons the day after I got back to Ottawa. Anyone who chose to has already had a chance to read Hansard, and if you haven't and I would not blame you for not doing so, I know you have all read the excellent reports your own Canadian Press representative, Mr. William Stewart, sent back home every day we were away from Ottawa.

Those reports were written with the special knack and skill of a good newspaper reporter while the events were still news. I could not expect you to put up with reports that were no longer news, from one who lacks the skill and experience of a reporter.

Now even though Mr. Stewart's good reporting has made my task this evening more difficult, I do take great pleasure in expressing to his employers my appreciation of the fine job he did.

Of course, I also had experiences which were less ephemeral than the day to day events that were reported in the press. These experiences were the very interesting and, I believe, very valuable, confidential conversations I had with the political leaders of the various countries I visited. But those conversations had to be confidential; and all I can say about them is that I was happy to find that they confirmed the impression I got everywhere and from all sources that there is an