

VERNMENT



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

ge  
No. 52/45

## CANADA AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Text of an address by the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.D. Wilgress, delivered to the Canadian Club of Toronto, October 27, 1952.

... Some figures of the growth of the Department of External Affairs give an idea of the sudden and wide increase in Canada's international activities. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, there were only thirty-two officers in the entire service, both at home and abroad. Some were busy collecting information and representing Canada in seven capitals; others in processing this information and sending out instructions from the East Block. By 1945 their numbers had grown to ninety-four. There has been a steady expansion since then, until today we have a total of two hundred and seventy-seven officers, of whom about 60 per cent are in Ottawa and the remainder are abroad amongst our forty-nine Missions. This increase in diplomatic and consular activity signifies Canada's rise to the important international position of a middle power.

Apart from the growth in quantitative terms there has been a great increase in the complexity of its activities since I joined the Department ten years ago. At that time the functions of the Secretary of State for External Affairs were discharged by the Prime Minister. I do not think that he found this burden to be unduly onerous when added to his other duties. Those who wished to find out what our foreign policy was had to be content largely with the occasional statements delivered in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister in his capacity of Secretary of State for External Affairs. Now we have a separate Secretary of State for External Affairs who is regarded as one of the busiest members of the Government. Hardly a week passes that Mr. Pearson is not required to make some statement that has a bearing on our foreign policy.

In fact, those who now wish to ascertain what our foreign policy is have an almost embarrassingly large number of statements to consider. Not only are frequent speeches dealing with external relations made in Parliament, but there are also the statements made by Canadian representatives in a whole series of international organizations, in nearly all of which we play a leading part. By participating in this way in international organizations we have to take a position on the many and varied questions which make up the sum total of foreign affairs. It is perhaps through the establishment of positions in these international organizations that the foreign policy of Canada is becoming most clearly defined.

When therefore I am asked what is the foreign policy of Canada, I feel that the best answer is to refer enquirers to what Canada has stood for in relation to the Commonwealth, to the United Nations, to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to those important bodies which regulate so much of our relations with the United States namely the International Joint Commission and the Permanent Joint