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External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 54/18 THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA --
PARTNERS IN UNITY

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare,
Mr. Paul Martin, to the 39th Annual Convention of
Kiwanis International, at Miami, Florida, May 10, 1954.

Kiwanis International

I was highly honoured by the invitation to address this great gathering of Kiwanis International and I welcome the opportunity thus provided me of extending from Canada the most cordial greetings to a good friend and close neighbour. Just last month, I was privileged to meet the President of Kiwanis International, Mr. Donald Forsythe, and your Secretary, Mr. O.E. Peterson, during their recent trip to Canada. For this reason, my return visit takes on added pleasure.

This is the thirty-ninth Annual Convention of Kiwanis International. From the 3,750 individual Clubs in the United States, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii that comprise this vast organization, some 11,000 Kiwanians are gathered here to dedicate themselves anew to the Kiwanis ideals of service. These delegates represent the 225,000 business and professional leaders in communities throughout America who have this year taken as the central theme of their activities the advancement of the aim: "Build by Faith, Loyalty and Service".

It seems to me that nothing is needed more at this critical stage in human history than for men of goodwill everywhere to translate into effective reality the principles and objectives that, for two decades, have motivated the activities of Kiwanis.

By its emphasis on the primacy of spiritual values and its respect for the integrity and freedom of the individual human being, Kiwanis finds its inspiration in those very qualities that are the foundations of our democratic society.

I have read with much interest a recent report of Kiwanis activities during the past year, which indicates that your members have participated actively in a number of fields of public service coming within my particular area of responsibility as Minister of National Health and Welfare for Canada. To mention only one, no less than 43,682 Kiwanians are now engaged in civil defence work -- a vital responsibility of citizenship which has taken on added urgency in both our countries in the light of recent developments in the field of thermonuclear weapons.

United States - Canadian Relations

In a century and a third of neighbourly visiting over the 4,000 miles of back fence that is our international boundary, Canada and the United States have developed a relationship that is unique in human history.