



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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SOME ASPECTS OF CANADIAN - AMERICAN RELATIONS

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, to the Canadian Club, Montreal, April 27, 1956.

You will not be surprised, I am sure, especially in view of the current attention being given to the matter, if I talk to you today about some aspects of our relations with the United States.

It is a subject with which Canadians have always been intensely preoccupied; and, I expect, always will be, as long as the facts of history and geography, economics and politics, remain as they are.

This preoccupation, while natural and, indeed, inevitable, at times seems to occupy a disproportionate share of popular interest. If we are not careful, we will soon be spending more time in thinking negatively about what the Americans have done or may do to or for us, than in thinking positively about our own plans and policies.

Canadian-American relations are today the most important single item in the foreign policy of our country; apart, of course, from the transcendental issue of peace and war. Moreover, these relations will probably grow in difficulty and complexity as the importance of each country to the other increases, as is happening. After all, we share most of a continent, and one which is today not on the periphery, but in the very centre of the world. Its northern half - the Canadian half - is growing steadily in strength and influence.

Today there are no two countries in the world whose contacts are so varied, so close and so compelling, as those between Canada and its neighbour.

When Professor Leacock retired from McGill, he was invited to return to England, his birthplace, and pass