



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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FAR EASTERN POLICIES

Text of an address by the Hon. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, to the American Assembly, Arden House, Harriman, N.Y., Thursday, November 15.

From the Far Eastern policies of the free nations since World War II, two main conclusions, among many others, can be drawn; conclusions which, incidentally, can be drawn also from policies in other areas.

(1) A coalition of free states is difficult to operate except when national security is directly threatened, and common fear becomes a strong cement. Only then do the claims of inter-dependence override those of independence; international considerations successfully compete with those of national interest.

(2) In a free democracy which is open to all the appeals, selfish and unselfish, of propaganda spread by mass media of communication, it is difficult to reconcile the ideological and the strategic as the basis for policy and action.

As to the first conclusion, the lessons of Far Eastern policy in regard to co-operation within a coalition are as obvious and as important as those which we are, I hope, now learning, in a very hard and agonizing way, from Middle Eastern policy. Governments and peoples whose interests make close and friendly co-operation necessary, find it far more difficult to convert that necessity into action than into words. The latter, indeed, is easy. The former requires, at times, the subordination of what seems immediate national interest to international, longer-range requirements. That is not easy.

The inability to bring about this reconciliation of interests inside a coalition has been largely responsible for the present collapse of Western co-operation in the Middle East, which has brought distress to everyone except those who