



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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DISSOLVING IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES

Excerpts from an address by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, at the opening of the Ninth International Paediatrics Congress, Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, July 20, 1959.

There can be no more noble or worthwhile a task than the prevention and cure of childhood diseases, which is the professional dedication of this international gathering of men and women whose purpose is the well-being of children for the betterment of mankind.

The time is past when we can hope for the solution of any of our major problems within the confines of any single nation. As science brings all lands closer together, the problems of one country become the problems of all, and, what is even more significant, the problems of all become the problems of each.

This Conference, comprising as it does medical scientists from so many countries, cultures, creeds and races of mankind, is an inspiring example of what single-minded dedication to a common problem mankind has achieved and will achieve in greater measure in the years ahead. Indeed, it is an example to those of us whose responsibilities lies in other fields which include the inter-relationship of men and women the world over.

This assembly brings together men and women of East and West--of 63 countries, including a number from Eastern Europe. I believe that international gatherings which provide opportunities for mutual co-operation and the exchange of opinions and views (aside from the personal benefits which accrue) have a major function to perform in the improvement of the international climate.

Medical science recognizes no limitations or boundaries in its mission for mankind, and has demonstrated that the gulf between two political ideologies can be bridged in a spirit of mutual help and co-operation.