



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## No. 58/7 FACETS AND FORM OF CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sidney E. Smith, M.P., to the Churchmen's Seminar on International Affairs, Chalmers United Church, Ottawa, February 12, 1958.

I wish, at the outset, to express my pleasure in meeting with you here today and to say that I welcome the opportunity afforded by this Seminar to speak to you about some aspects and the shape of our foreign policy.

It is, as you know, only a few months since I assumed a professional interest and a political responsibility in the field of international affairs. In that short period, I have been able to take a close look at the important types of problem with which the Canadian Government is confronted in its relations with other Governments and with those international organizations to which Canada belongs. My purpose today is to proffer a few observations on some of these international relationships, from the point of view of one who has recently come upon the scene.

The conduct of diplomacy among nations is a complex enterprise. It is extremely difficult to describe. Nothing is easier, of course, than to make fun of the profession of diplomacy. There are innumerable stories about the absurdities of protocol (not a very important subject, I admit -- until you make a mistake!), about the antics of the boys in top hats and striped pants and so on. Perhaps I can risk reminding you of one of these rather slanderous stories since I do not see any striped pants in this audience.

Just after the First World War, half a dozen young men sharing a compartment on a European train were swapping, not without boast, stories of their wartime experiences and exploits on land, at sea, and in the air. Only one was silent. Finally, one of the group enquired politely where he had served during the War and he was forced to admit that he had spent it behind a desk in the Foreign Ministry. "But just remember this", he added waspishly, "if it hadn't been for us, you'd never have had your old war."