

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE NEW COMMONWEALTH BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Text of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, on May 25, 1953.

... Only a few days ago, ... a neighbourly visit took place when I accompanied our Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent to Washington, where he saw his friend, President Eisenhower. This was one of a long series of meetings between Canadian Prime Ministers and American Presidents - meetings which reflect the closeness of the relationship between our peoples, who for a century and more have shared a boundless community of interest and purpose.

Today, when the United States bears the heavy and honourable responsibility of world leadership - which she did not seek but which she has accepted - the need for mutual understanding between this great country and the coalition of the free world is greater than ever before. Without such understanding, the only thing that might hold the free peoples together would be fear of a common danger. But fear is an insubstantial and unsatisfactory foundation for lasting friendship.

Since the end of the last war, our common history can be written in terms of the search for security. This search is being made in the dark shadow of aggressive world Communism - which constitutes a threat as great as any that free men have ever had to face. Even for a country so powerful in every way as the United States, this search can end in success only if it is made in the company of other states who know the true value of liberty and are willing to defend what they know.

Like the United States, Canada seeks peace and security in a free world. We seek these goals through the United Nations, through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and through associations like our British Commonwealth of Nations, each of which has an important role to play in this interdependent world.

In the United Nations, we are pledged, with you and 58 other nations, to support the obligations and principles of international law and order, and to maintain the purposes of the Charter.

These purposes require the members of the United Nations to keep the peace and if necessary defend it by force in the event of aggression; to respect fundamental human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person; to observe international obligations and to promote social and economic progress. In a word, the United Nations organization