



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA AND THE FAR EAST

An address by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, before the Canadian Club, in Victoria, on August 21, 1950.

I would like to talk to you today - briefly and, I am afraid, very sketchily, about one or two aspects of current developments in Asia. You in British Columbia are in a special position of vantage to view, and view with the perspective of years of close association, Canada's relations with Asia. Those relations are of increasing concern to us, as Asia itself becomes more and more important in world affairs. That importance is far broader, and goes far deeper than Korea, and Canada will have to adjust its policies and its thinking to conform to it.

Because of the intermingling of the societies of North America and Western Europe, there has been a natural tendency for Canada, especially Eastern Canada, to be particularly - you might add too exclusively - pre-occupied with finding solutions to the difficult economic, political and security problems with which the destructions of the Second World War confronted the European and North Atlantic communities. We have made progress in dealing with these problems. In the economic field, the Western European countries through the Organization for European Economic Co-operation - with which the United States and Canada are now associated - are working together effectively and encouragingly toward a goal of co-operative stability and prosperity. In the political field, they have combined in the Brussels Treaty and the Council of Europe to preserve, against communist aggression and by joint effort, their great heritage of Western Christendom, which is our heritage too. In the North Atlantic Treaty, the countries of Western Europe have been joined by Canada and the United States in a mutual defence pact against aggression. Progress in converting that paper pact into armed defensive strength is being made. That progress has quickened - as it should have - since Korea showed us what we are up against. The results of that quickening will appear in the months ahead in terms of new concrete defensive strength. This will include stronger Canadian forces and also Canadian aid in the building up of Western European forces, our first line of defence against the dark aggressor from the East.

In the North Atlantic area, then, we have set our feet firmly upon a road which we believe is leading in the right direction, and we are moving faster on that road. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world little progress has been made in dealing with the great postwar problems of the Pacific area. Nor can these problems, in any event, be solved by the same methods that we have adopted in Europe, as some impatient persons seem to think. Economic assistance for Asia, for instance, has to be related to the special circumstances of that part of the world;