

Mr. Anderson



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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THIS STATEMENT MAY BE USED AS SOON AS IT HAS
BEEN READ TO THE CANADIAN PEACE CONGRESS IN
TORONTO OR AT 9 P.M. E.D.T. SUNDAY, MAY 7.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, had been invited by the National Council of the Canadian Peace Congress to make a statement on the foreign policy of the Canadian Government before the Congress, which met in Toronto on May 5, 6 and 7. Mr. Pearson replied to the invitation that he would be unable to attend but that he would make available such a statement for the use of the Congress. He invited the officers of the Congress to have the following statement read at the meeting.

"The maintenance of peace and the establishment of security is the greatest single problem facing all the peoples in the world today. Every freedom-loving, peace-loving nation must build its foreign policy on the solution of that problem. But in our passion for peace in an insecure world we cannot blind ourselves to the necessity for taking adequate precautions against aggression from whatever source it may come.

"No country is, of course, entirely blameless in its international policies and all countries have made mistakes against peace. But public discussion in Canada in recent years demonstrates beyond question that the great majority of the Canadian people believes that the chief threat to peace lies in the aggressive and expansionist policy of the Soviet Union; in its determination to prevent friendly intercourse between its citizens and those of other countries; in its poisoning of the minds of its own people against the governments and peoples of the free democracies; in its aggressive and subversive interference in the domestic affairs of other countries through the use of the communist international as the agent of Russian imperialism; in its arrogant refusal to participate in the work of the United Nations, except on its own terms. All these things have aroused fear and apprehension in the minds of all free peoples. They have necessitated large expenditures for defence which might have otherwise been devoted to progressive social betterment. The Canadian people have indicated clearly, however, that they see no alternative to such expenditures in the face of a Russian army of more than 170 divisions and of an organization of society where every individual is conscripted to the service of a ruthless police state.

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