

VERNMENT  
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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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No. 51/17 COMMUNISM AND THE PEACE CAMPAIGN

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, delivered to the Sudbury and District Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club, on April 20, 1951.

There is one question these days which, as Mr. Dean Acheson puts it, "twists and tortures all our lives"; what are the chances of war? What are the prospects of peace? Science, now so far ahead of moral and social progress, has developed such new and terrible weapons that war, if it came, would be far more calamitous than it has ever been in the past. We all live under the shadow of these new weapons and this fear, and look anxiously for signs that these shadows will not deepen into the eclipse of total war. The world is so full of fascinating possibilities, there is so much constructive work to be done and we have each one of us so many private hopes and plans that instinctively and rightly we resent and resist the claim that war is inevitable; and look for evidence to refute it. Indeed, so anxious are we for this evidence, that we are in danger at times of finding it where it doesn't exist.

Surrounded by fears and anxieties as we must be in the world today, we will have little chance of making a sound judgment of the prospects of peace or of acting in the best way to secure it unless we have a clear idea of the meaning of peace and of the price we are willing to pay for it. Otherwise, we may easily become confused. We may be led astray by those who wish to exploit our deepest longings for their own purposes. The problems which face Canada today are more serious and complex than any we have ever faced in our history. In order to meet and solve them, it is essential that every individual Canadian should try to keep his eyes unclouded. We must see the world situation steadily and see it whole.

Many of those who are trying to confuse us about peace and to cloud the issues we must face have banded together in various organizations with high-sounding names, such as "The Partisans of Peace" and "The Canadian Peace Congress". The programmes which they put forward from time to time seem plausible and are often phrased in terms which at first sight might seem such as to deserve the support of any man of good-will. But only at first sight. By now, there is a fairly wide understanding, I think, of the ulterior motives of those who have engineered these spurious but seductive peace campaigns; or, as is usually the case, have used others for that purpose. I am not worried that they will succeed in converting any but an inconsiderable fraction of deluded Canadians to support Soviet Communism. But many well-meaning people have been confused by this propaganda, and some have already swallowed