

## COMMENT ON STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT DE GAULLE

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson made the following statement in the House of Commons on November 28:

...I said in my statement of July 25, 1967, commenting on some earlier remarks of the President of the French Republic, that Canada has always had a special relationship with France, which is the motherland of so many of her citizens. I said we attached the greatest importance to our friendship with the French people; that it had been and remained the strong purpose of the Government of Canada to foster that friendship. I should like to confirm those words today.

I do not propose to deal in any detail with General de Gaulle's statement of yesterday - a statement very carefully prepared and made to the press. General de Gaulle's statement will obviously arouse discord in Canada. I am sure the people of this country will be restrained in their response to it, as I am in mine today, so as not to serve the purposes of those who would disunite and divide our country.

### INTERVENTION REJECTED

I believe the statement distorted some Canadian history, misrepresented certain contemporary developments and wrongly predicted the future. This statement was not merely a commentary on Canadian domestic or foreign policies, which could have been ignored; it was an intervention in those policies by the head of a foreign state. As such it remains unacceptable. Indeed, in this case it is intolerable that a head of a foreign state or government should recommend a course of political or constitutional action which would destroy Canadian confederation and the unity of the Canadian state.

The future of Canada will be decided in Canada, by Canadians.

I have confidence, and I know all members of this House have confidence, in the ability and good sense of all Canadians, French speaking or English speaking, to make the right decision. They will do it in their own way and through their own democratic process. I believe this decision will require further constitutional changes to bring our federalism up to date and to ensure, among other things, that French-speaking Canadians who form one of our two founding

cultural and linguistic groups, or societies if you like, will have their rights accepted and respected in Canada.

### FRANCO-CANADA CULTURAL TIES

I agree also that the Federal Government - any Federal Government - should encourage and promote special and close cultural relations between French-speaking Canadians and France and other French-speaking countries. Indeed, we are doing that. There should be no argument on this score except with those who wish to use these relations to destroy the Federal Government's responsibility for foreign affairs, and that we do not accept.

Canada is a free country and its people govern themselves. Canadians in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada have the right to exercise fully their political rights in federal and provincial elections. Self determination is no new discovery for us. We do not need to have it offered to us. To assert the contrary is an insult to those who discharge their democratic privileges as Canadian voters and to those who serve their country in this House or in provincial legislatures.

To those who would set us free, we answer "We are free". To those who would disunite us, we answer "We remain united, in a federal system which is being brought into line with the requirements of our time and of our origins and history". On April 19, 1960, the gallant and illustrious head of another state, speaking in Ottawa, had this to say - I quote from his speech:

"And now, how do you Canadians appear to us? Materially, a new country, of vast size, mighty resources, inhabited by a hard-working and enterprising people. Politically, a state which has found the means to unite two societies, very different in origin, language and religion; which exercises independence under the British crown and forms part of the Commonwealth: which is forging a national character even though spread out over three thousand miles alongside a very powerful federation; a solid and stable state."

I agree with those words of General de Gaulle in 1960. I disagree with his words in November 1967.

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### RECENT AWARDS

The Atoms for Peace Award for 1967 was presented last month to Dr. W.B. Lewis, Senior Vice-President, Science, Atomic Energy of Canada, at the Rockefeller University, New York City.

This award, which is given in recognition of contributions made to international co-operation in developing possibilities for beneficent uses of nuclear energy, was shared with Dr. Bertrand Goldschmidt of France and Dr. Isidor I. Rabi of the United States. Each received a gold medallion and an honorarium of \$30,000.

Dr. Lewis has worked as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the IAEA and as Canadian representative on the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee. He joined the National Research Council in 1946 as director of the Division of Atomic Energy at Chalk River and, when AECL was formed in 1952, he became Vice-President Research and Development. Dr. Lewis was appointed to his present position in 1963.

Last year, Dr. Lewis was the first recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada.