



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A FORMULA FOR PEACE

An address by Prime Minister
John G. Diefenbaker to the
Fifth Baptist Youth Conference,
Toronto, Ontario, June 29, 1958

In the struggle for peace each citizen and each nation has his part to play. In the struggle for a peaceful and happier world, it is my conviction that as citizens and as nations we must be guided by the fundamental principles of the Christian Church. For each person and each country the path may be different. While for us in Canada, the role will be different from the role to be played by countries in other circumstances, in countries that are larger or smaller, richer or poorer than we. To illustrate my conception of a Christian attitude for a nation to take towards the international community and its own position in that community, I would like to talk to you about the role of Canada as I see it.

Each individual must base his position in the community in which he lives first of all on the development of himself, secondly on a proper relationship to his neighbours and the community as a whole. This, I believe, is also true of nations.

First of all, we must make the most of ourselves, without inflicting harm on others. Nations as well as men must be strong and self-reliant. They must develop their resources for the benefit of themselves and be thereby enabled to help others less fortunate than themselves. We Canadians have been richly blessed in inhabiting a country with great natural resources. We have also been blessed in that, although great riches are available, they have not been available without hard work. Ours is not an easy land and these harsher facts we should consider a blessing rather than a handicap, for they have taught us the virtues of toil and given us the satisfaction of achievement.