



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 59/31 LOOKING AHEAD IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Notes for an address by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, on September 29, 1959.

Fifty years after the foundation of this University, following the kaleidoscopic changes of peace and war and cold war, the peoples of the world have within the last few weeks gained new hope that the benefits of science, medicine and education will be used to raise man's standards everywhere in the world, and that in Asia and Africa the eternal serfdom of poverty will end.

Has mankind learned its lesson? Will the bounties of science and learning be used for peaceful purposes? Will some of the tens of billions spent each year for armaments be used for peaceful purposes? The world is passing through a period which, when the story of this century is written, may well be regarded as one of the great watersheds of human history.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier looked ahead when he laid the cornerstone of this University -- may I follow his example?

The first penetration into outer space, the first contact with the moon, the harnessing of nuclear power -- these and other unparalleled scientific achievements are taking place in a world depressed by fear, yet uplifted with hope for the future. Humanity's hopes alternate between danger and promise. Are the results of technological advance to be the bitter fruits of war or the fragrant comforting breath of lasting peace?

Differences of frightening extent divide the major powers. In Europe, the German problem remains intractable, although as the President of the United States said yesterday, Soviet threats on Berlin have ended. In China, a new power of the first magnitude is moving mysteriously and threateningly on to the whole scene. The agenda of the General Assembly of the United Nations is crowded with issues testifying to the complexity and tension of relations between states.