

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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Notes for a Speech by the Secretary of State for
External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin,
to the American Society of Travel Writers,
Ottawa, September 24, 1966.

It is my privilege tonight, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to extend a warm welcome to members of the Society of American Travel Writers meeting here in Canada's capital. I would be glad on any occasion to have you choose our country to hold your conference. As you will already have realized, however, there are particularly good opportunities, on the eve of our centennial celebrations and close to the beginning of the world's fair in Montreal, Expo '67, to learn something of the Canadian nation, its history, its attitudes and its aspirations.

It is not always easy for a Canadian to know where to begin in explaining some of the essential facts about his own country to an American. There are many fields in which we enter into an easy discussion with common knowledge and assumptions and without any need to make distinctions about national differences. There are so many obvious ways in which everyday life in our two countries is similar.

It is, therefore, doubly difficult to turn from what is easily understood and to present Canadian points of view which are not so obvious or expected so far as the visitor is concerned.

I am sure, however, that it is the differences which are of most intriguing interest to those from other countries. The lure of travel is the unfamiliar.

I cannot begin to suggest many of the distinctive features of Canadian life myself. You are visiting several Canadian cities, meeting many people and learning much of the detail about our centennial activities and about the broad Canadian and world vistas of Expo '67.

I am, however, speaking to you here in Ottawa and I am speaking on behalf of the Canadian Government. It was in a building only a few hundred yards from where we are meeting tonight that the first Government of the new Confederation was sworn in.