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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

FREE WORLD UNITY: "Excessive economic nationalism, if unchecked, will sooner or later corrode any coalition, and weaken until it destroys co-operation and unity in foreign or defence policies," said the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in addressing the Canadian Historical Association at Winnipeg on June 4.

Mr. Pearson's subject was, "Some Thoughts on Canadian External Relations" and he said that Canada's development in the last two decades had been almost as striking in her external relations as in domestic policy.

Canada's earlier policy of refusing to accept the obligations of collective security was motivated primarily by domestic considerations, "by the desire to avoid taking up a position on issues which would split the country. . . . If we can today have a positive foreign policy it is precisely because of the degree of internal cohesion and unity which we have achieved."

Mr. Pearson then proceeded:

"In the '30's then, we were intensely pre-occupied with the effect of our foreign policy on the unity of our country. But in the '50's we are also concerned with the connection between that policy and the unity of the coalition against aggression, in which Canada is playing an active part. The problem of seeking unity has been vastly enlarged in scope and complexity.

"With the fantastic development in weapons and communications which technologists have produced, the effective scale of political

affairs on our planet is rapidly changing. And as the scale changes the effective unit of manoeuvre in international politics changes too. Today no nation, not even the greatest, is big enough to be a fully effective unit of foreign policy.

"In the 19th century, and to a large extent too in the first half of this one, most of the problems of foreign policy were problems within our Western civilization: usually problems between European states. Today the most challenging and most significant issues are found in the relations between two concepts of world organization and in the emergence of new Asian states, free and insistent.

"The main problems of foreign policy in a democracy now have to be assessed, and day to day decisions taken, against this background of global relations between civilizations. And against this background it is of course obvious that our greatest need, our one indispensable asset, is unity among those who are working together to defend freedom and maintain peace. Today we certainly cannot take this unity for granted.

"It is not easy, but it should be possible, for democratic statesmen to cultivate effective cohesion and co-operation within a coalition. For one thing, successful politicians in a democracy are inevitably schooled to sense quickly, almost before they appear, the first signs of disunity within their own section or nation.

"Again, when action is needed, careful and