

VERNMENT  
CANADA

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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No. 53/30      Text of an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, to the Harvard University Alumni Association, Cambridge, Mass., on Thursday, June 11, 1953.

... When he was a young man, Francis Parkman, whose life work made such a great contribution to the history both of Canada and the United States, said that it was his ambition to write the history of the forest. This task would have been an easy one compared with that of any conscientious historian of our age who wished to pick his way through the wilderness of tangled conspiracies in our contemporary international forest. We live, indeed, in what might with some truth be called an age of conspiracy.

We are not likely soon to forget the plot hatched in the beer cellars in Munich, which grew to such monstrous size that it threatened to cast a blight over the whole world; until it was finally reduced to the cramped bunker in Berlin, where Hitler intrigued to the sordid end with his doomed and ludicrous court.

There is today also the Communist conspiracy, even more dangerous because less hysterical, which by its alliance with Soviet imperialism, and by its secret operations throughout the whole world, is the cause of so many of our present difficulties; the source of so much of our fear.

The story of these conspiracies would bulk large in any history of our times. Future historians also will have to record with regret that some of those who have gone about to eliminate the real menace of the Communist conspiracy have done so by methods which weaken our democratic concept of law and justice; which, by spreading needless division and distrust, have threatened to destroy that feeling of community on which free society must be based. These methods play into the hands of the Communists by giving some of them, the more dangerous because they have been able to conceal their purposes and affiliations, a chance to pose as victims of persecution and hysteria. They become a kind of conspiracy themselves.

Opposed to all these conspiracies which draw their strength from dark places, there is, however, the constructive co-operation of tolerant and enlightened persons, working together in societies of which this university is a heartening and illustrious example.