

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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IN WORLD AFFAIRS

An address by the Prime Minister, Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, made at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., May 8, 1953.

...I came to Washington at the cordial invitation of the President to discuss some of the many matters of common concern to two neighbouring households whose properties adjoin one another for some five thousand miles; and whose relations differ from those of any two other countries on earth. We are citizens of two neighbouring nations who have never looked on one another as foreigners..

That does not mean that, in these neighbourly relations between us, there have not sometimes been complicated and even vexatious questions to settle; but, most of the time, we have settled them like good neighbours who want to remain and, indeed, feel it is essential that they remain good neighbours.

This feeling of neighbourliness has been reflected in relations of the warmest friendliness which have existed for many years between the man who happens to be the President of the American Union and the man who happens to be Prime Minister of Canada.

This is not, of course, the first time I have met General Eisenhower, though it is the first time that I have seen him since he became President of the United States.

In Canada, we have never forgotten his visit in 1946 as the victorious commander of the armed forces of many nations in the Second World War. On that occasion we named one of our greatest mountains in his honour. As I recall it, he pretended to find some reflection in the fact that the mountain was bald. It is, in fact, snow-capped and we in Canada are proud that one of our highest peaks will always bear the name "Eisenhower".

Then two years ago, when General Eisenhower was serving as supreme commander of the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I had the honour of welcoming him to Ottawa. On that visit we discussed some of the great problems which were involved in the erection of the defences of the North Atlantic community to which he has made so indispensable a contribution, and which remains our strongest bulwark in the defence of peace.