



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA: SOME PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

An address by the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Hume Wrong, to the Colgate University Conference on Foreign Policy dealing with the theme "Creating Situations of Strength", July 26, 1952.

The general and timely theme of this conference is "Creating Situations of Strength". This evening, at its opening session, I shall say a little about some of the achievements of the United States and Canada in contributing to this end and about some of the problems with which we are still faced.

The achievements are a matter of record, and I shall not weary you with details. It is relevant, however, to begin by drawing attention to the remarkable change since 1939, and particularly during the last five or six years, in the outlook of Americans and Canadians towards the world at large.

There must be very few people, at any rate in the Western world, who can look back with pride on the international policies of their countries in the inter-war years from 1918 to 1939. We now see how misleading were the illusions which then moulded popular opinion and therefore the actions of democratic governments. There was the illusion that written covenants unbacked by any arrangements for enforcement, of which the Kellogg Treaty of 1928 is the supreme example, would prevent war. There was the illusion, long pursued, that the cause of peace would be greatly furthered by undertakings to limit armaments without effective procedures for inspection and control. There was the illusion that the intrigues of arms manufacturers and international bankers were an important cause of war. There was the illusion that concessions on issues which were not vital - except in terms of moral principle - would buy off the aggressors - the illusion of appeasement. There was the illusion, especially strongly held in North America, that national security could be preserved by remaining aloof from the turmoils shaking the rest of the world - the illusion of isolation. This illusion was accepted more widely in the United States than in Canada; but the winds of opinion know no frontiers and it deeply influenced the attitude of many Canadians.

It would be too much to say that all these illusions have wholly disappeared from our continent; but, thanks mainly first to Hitler and his partners and later to Stalin and his associates, they no longer are influential in determining the national outlook and national policies of either the United States or of Canada. It has needed the spur of danger, the danger of defeat in the last war and the present danger of another and more terrible war, to awaken many people to realities. Recently, on his eightieth birthday, Bertrand Russell wrote caustically:

"Man has survived hitherto because his ignorance and incompetence have made his folly ineffective. Now that science has shown us how to make folly effective, we must abandon folly or perish".