

VERNMENT

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 56/6 NEW ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, to the Canadian Red Cross Society, Toronto Branch, Sunnybrook Hospital, March 12, 1956.

As a Canadian, and as the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I have many reasons to be grateful to the Canadian Red Cross Society, and for being honoured by this invitation to speak to you this evening at Sunnybrook Hospital, where one phase of the generous and effective work of the Canadian Red Cross Society is so well illustrated.

I suppose that most Canadians are inclined to think of the activities of the Red Cross, whether within Canada or abroad, largely in terms of the immediate and efficient relief which the Red Cross is prepared to furnish at a time of disaster at home or anywhere in the world. This is, of course, a vital part of the activities, both of the Canadian Red Cross Society and of the International Red Cross. But it seems to me that the Canadian Red Cross Society should perhaps be better known for the unspectacular but essential work which its officers and members, almost all of them volunteers, are performing quietly throughout this and other countries, bringing aid where aid is needed, and performing a great variety of services whose recipients have only one right and only one qualification - their need for help and for compassion.

The work of your members in visiting hospitals and helping veterans and their dependents: your work in blood transfusion services: your nursing and other welfare services: all these and many other services deserve our recognition and our gratitude.

In my capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs, I have, of course, for some years been brought into special contact with the work of the International Red Cross, and with the Canadian Red Cross Society in its international