



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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## THE FAR EASTERN SITUATION

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, introducing the debate on external affairs, made in the House of Commons, March 24, 1955.

Mr. Speaker, this motion gives us an opportunity each year to review some of the important international developments which have taken place, and more particularly Canada's relationship to those developments.

Although I may be required to speak at some length, I doubt whether I shall be able to cover all the points which will be in the minds of hon. members; but if matters arise during the course of the discussion on which I have not touched in my review I shall of course be glad to do my best to deal with them when I wind up the debate. Even a partial summary of these developments will indicate - this will be no surprise to the House - that Canada's international responsibilities have increased, are increasing, and with international conditions as they are, are not likely to diminish in the foreseeable future.

There are a number of reasons for this trend. One of them, of course, is the growing interdependence of all people and this, among other things, is the direct result of modern technical and scientific developments, especially in communications, which show no sign of slowing down. These developments certainly increase man's mastery over nature, and could make possible greater material welfare than he has ever dreamed of; but they also increase and make even more complicated relationships between nations.

Another factor, of course, bearing on our increased responsibility has been the striking growth of our country in strength and in authority. This has made possible an increase in the influence which Canada can expect on the course of international affairs. That influence in this day of super powers is not, or is very rarely, decisive. It may not always be very important; but a country like Canada with a special and close relationship to London and to Washington has unique opportunities through normal diplomatic and governmental contacts and in other ways to exert on occasion a special influence on those capitals and thereby influence the course of events, and I hope in the right direction.

Our effectiveness in this regard, however, will depend not only on the way we accept and discharge our own international responsibilities but also on the reputation that we acquire and maintain for sound and