



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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REFLECTIONS ON NEIGHBOURHOOD

An address to the Central Council of Canadian Red Cross Society, at Toronto, Ontario, by the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Arnold Smith, November 22, 1954.

My Minister, Mr. Pearson, has asked me to bring you his greetings, and to tell you how sorry he is not to be able to be here with you himself. This is I am afraid a rather busy autumn for foreign ministers.

Mr. Pearson also asked me to tell you how much he - and our whole Department - appreciate the great and varied assistance which we have had from the Canadian Red Cross Society, on a good many occasions during the past few years, in connection with the implementation of government measures to aid victims of various disasters in Europe and Asia. He asked me to convey too our appreciation for the opportunities we have had from time to time of working with you, and sometimes helping a little, in the execution of your own important activities to bring help to the stricken in various parts of the world. I should like also to say how much we all admire the magnificent work which you, Dr. Stanbury, have done to reunite with their families Greek children who had been carried off years ago by Communists.

There has probably never been a time when attitudes and acts of good neighbourliness have been more immediately important than they are today. In a real sense, of course, man's crucial need has always been a further development of his sense of community. The question "Who is my neighbour?" rings down through history as one of the seminal challenges, by their response to which men and societies have always judged themselves and determined their characters and their futures. The history of political actions and social relations in any period may legitimately, I think, be regarded as that age's attempt to work out the implications of neighbourhood.

But though the problem is as old as history, the methods of communication and transport, and the weapons, which scientists and engineers have been developing for us in recent decades, have faced our generation with what Mr. Pearson has called "the need