



CANADA

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CONTENTS

Canada's Identity in Centennial Year	1
Middle East Aid	2
Industrial Design Congress	2
Vanier Commemorative Stamp	2
Automatic Weather Stations	2
Centennial Year Export Goal in Sight	3

Wheat Sale to U.S.S.R.	3
Mining Research Grants	3
Tribute to Bush Pilots	4
Soviet Trade Pact Ratified	4
Diplomatic Appointments	4

CANADA'S IDENTITY IN CENTENNIAL YEAR

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, addressing a Ukrainian Youth Day Assembly on Parliament Hill recently, said that Canada's centennial year might prove to be the most important discovery date in the country's history. "We Canadians are discovering ourselves," he said, "what we are, what we can do, how rich and varied are our human resources."

Extracts from Mr. Pearson's address follow:

...There were, of course, two founding races and languages and cultures in Canada — the British and the French — and with that foundation our country can only survive, let alone develop, on the full acceptance by the English-speaking majority of the French-speaking minority as a special linguistic, racial and cultural element in this state, Canada — where the "French fact" has full scope for its development and expansion but where it does not need any separate political entity to enshrine its cultural and linguistic identity. We should not let contemporary excitements obscure that fact.

RACIAL AND CULTURAL VARIETY

Let us also never forget that to this duality of our origin there has been added a great variety of other racial and cultural strains that have contributed so much to our development. They are proud and valuable parts of our national structure. In the front ranks of these are the Canadians of Ukrainian race. We often call them Ukrainian-Canadians, but I don't like that hyphenated word very much because it could be interpreted as implying a division of loyalty which doesn't exist. All Canadians, of whatever origin, are proud of the magnificent contribution of those of Ukrainian race to the building of our country since they first came to Canada so many years ago. They

have added strength and colour and distinction to the national pattern. They've made great contributions to every phase of our national life. The whole country should recognize and be grateful for this. And I am very proud to acknowledge it here today as the Prime Minister of the country.

As we enter our second century, Canadians of all races must work together, as we have worked together in the past, to build a united and a free country, Canada, which is greater and bigger than any of its parts and which gives full freedom to all of its people to develop in their own way, but as Canadians.

The Ukrainian-Canadian Committee said in a paper on language and culture which was published in 1962 (and I quote):

"To argue that cultural plurality has an adverse effect on the healthy growth and development of the Canadian culture is detrimental to the best interest of Canada, since such arguments can only be based on the old, outmoded and unrealistic theory of Balkanization of Canadian culture and on hysterical fear, pride and prejudice."

NO REVOLUTION FOR CANADA

We don't want that in this country. In our country we have required neither revolution nor civil war nor outside intervention to settle our differences as Canadians — to ensure that we remain at liberty, as Canadians, to conduct our own affairs according to our own designs, to work out our own Canadian destiny of freedom and independence, whatever our cultural origins, a destiny which will reflect our strength and our unity.