



# Statements and Speeches

---

No. 75/33

MR. MACEACHEN IN EDINBURGH -- SOME THOUGHTS ON CANADA, BRITAIN AND THE WORLD

The Texts of Three Brief Statements by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, in Edinburgh on October 21, 1975.

(a) *Remarks at a lunch for the Directors of the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom:*

Allow me to say, first, how pleased I was to attend this morning the meeting of the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom.

The progress accomplished since its initial meeting last December -- and the progress leading up to that initial meeting -- are most impressive, and I begin at once with a general "thank-you" to all who were responsible for this success. In a matter of months, a well-endowed and well-organized institution was brought into existence, which we in Canada believe will make an important and continuing contribution to relations between our country and the United Kingdom. At a time when no one was in a mood -- or a position -- to throw money around loosely, if there ever is such a time, the goal of the fund-raising campaign was substantially over-subscribed. Instead of the target of £180,000, the final subscription, I understand, had reached, as of last Friday, £222,394 and 94 p. As many of you know, the Canadian Government had agreed to contribute £60,000 to the Foundation, provided Canadian businessmen doing business in Britain and British businessmen doing business in Canada could each be persuaded to contribute a matching amount.

I find it most impressive and most encouraging to realize that British and Canadian businessmen over-subscribed to the extent they did. What this says for the healthy condition of business relations between Britain and Canada is more eloquent and convincing than any words I might offer you on the subject today. So I take this opportunity publicly to thank, on behalf of the Government of Canada, all those British and Canadian businessmen who have chosen this unique means of reasserting their faith in the Anglo-Canadian connection. The response to the subscription campaign has been so remarkable that I can hardly think of a more profitable cultural investment the Canadian Government could have made than its contribution to the Foundation.

---

---

My Scottish blood may have been diluted a bit by a few winters in Canada, but I still have enough "ken" left to know that a success like this does not happen by accident.

I understand that one of the chief arm-twisters in this campaign is here among us today in the person of Lord Amory. For putting his familiarity with exchequers, public as well as private, at the disposal of the Foundation, I extend him a personal "thank-you". It pleases me to imagine that the idea of strengthening academic relations between our two countries germinated in Lord Amory's mind during the years he spent in Ottawa as Her Majesty's High Commissioner in Canada.

Another name that must be singled out for mention on this occasion is that of the person I understand was the chief arm-twister of them all, our former High Commissioner to Britain, and now our Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Jake Warren. If my informants are correct, it was Jake who twisted the arms of the arm-twisters, who then went out and raised the funds by whatever means at their disposal. Perhaps Mr. Warren was infected with his zeal for this cause during one of the pleasant evenings Lord Amory used to conduct in the salons of Earnscliffe -- now the residence of the British High Commissioner in Ottawa, but earlier the home of Canada's most famous Scottish immigrant, our first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald of Glasgow.

Having sat with him in Cabinet for a great many years, I know how easy it is to infect my colleague Paul Martin with a good idea. So I was not at all surprised that, upon his appointment to London, he should have taken over with characteristic zest Jake Warren's duties as Chairman and Chief Executive of this Foundation. I must also thank the other members of the Foundation Board for their generous contributions of time to the support of its activities. May I also mention two members of our High Commission who have energetically assisted in this project, Mr. John Sharpe for administering the fund-raising campaign and Mr. Don Peacock, who conceived the idea of the Chair of Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom?

There will be an opportunity on a later occasion today to pay similar tribute to Sir Hugh Robson, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Edinburgh University; to his predecessor, Professor Swann; to Professor Watson, Vice-Principal Saul, Philip Wigley, Nat Wolfe and their colleagues for welcoming and helping so much with the establishment of the Chair and Centre of Canadian Studies. Without this warm welcome and generous support by the university, this whole project would not have been possible. May I again express the sincere gratitude of the Government of Canada to all of those responsible

---

---

for this project; may I officially welcome all of you here today and thank you for coming -- and may I now invite you to drink a toast to the continued success of this endeavour?

(b) *Remarks at the opening of an exhibition on Scottish activities in Canada at the University of Edinburgh Library:*

This exhibition speaks more eloquently than any words I could muster of the role of the Scots in the development of the Canadian nation as we know it today. It also contains evidence of the influence of the University of Edinburgh on the development of Canada from its earliest times.

Some of the history of the Scots in Canada has a flavour that is bittersweet -- an element often to be found in the history of any land.

We are reminded of this particularly by the letters in this exhibition of E. Topham, who claimed that the old clan system left the Highlander with the impression that in his own land -- and I quote directly now -- "all was a barren solitude, from which he could never change but for the better". That reflects some of the bitterness, as does his further suggestion that the Scots, Highland and Lowland alike, had -- and again I quote directly -- "become a nation of wanderers by profession".

But that, for the Canada we know today, is where the bitter began to sweeten a little. With the immigration of Scots to Canada, what was Scotland's loss became Canada's gain, and in a variety of ways too lengthy to list here this afternoon. A few more examples drawn from this exhibition are sufficient to substantiate this point.

Sir John A. Macdonald, who was born in Glasgow, is Canada's most famous Scottish expatriate, of course, because he was the most influential among the Fathers of Confederation and our first Prime Minister. Although his politics were not those of my own persuasion, I have no hesitation in giving him the full honour due him for getting the evolution of Canada well started in the early years after 1867.

Our second Prime Minister, Alexander Mackenzie, was also a Scot, born near Kunkeld, Perthshire. His politics were more to my personal liking than Sir John A. Macdonald's, although he has still to achieve the recognition of the fellow Scot he defeated. One of the law graduates of this University played an enormous role in an earlier period of Canadian history. As this exhibition also reminds us, the Honourable Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, who studied law at

---

---

Edinburgh University from 1786 to 1790, later founded colonies on Prince Edward Island, at Baldoon near Lake St. Clair, and in the Red River Valley where the city of Winnipeg now stands. How many others from Scotland played key roles in the early development of Canada we can all see from other items on exhibit here this afternoon:

- Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the great explorer who became the first white man to cross North America from coast to coast;
- that other great explorer of Scottish descent, Simon Fraser;
- that rebellious political reformer, William Lyon Mackenzie, whose later legacy was the longest -- serving Prime Minister so far in Canada's history, his grandson, William Lyon Mackenzie King;
- Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, another father of Canadian Confederation;
- and, not the least of those commemorated in this exhibition, George Brown, the son of an Edinburgh merchant, who also contributed to the emergency of contemporary Canada.

It was a graduate of Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, the Reverend Thomas Liddell, who helped to establish what is today one of Canada's most distinguished universities, Queen's at Kingston, Ontario. The role of other Scots in the development of other major Canadian universities is also noted in this exhibition, as are the contributions of many others, in many other areas of Canadian history.

I can only conclude by saying how much I appreciate the opportunity of being able to open this exhibition. I commend it to you, both for enjoyment and for enlightenment on the enduring contribution made to Canadian civilization by this nation of "wanderers by profession" who found their way from Scotland to Canada's shores.

(c) *Remarks at the opening of a Canadian exhibition on the law of the sea in the Chaplaincy Centre of Edinburgh University:*

It was on the north coast of Cape Breton Island that Sebastiano Caboto first landed, in 1497; and my constituents would never forgive me for failing to mention this historical fact, the accuracy of which is attested by the Cape Breton Historical Society, as I open in Edinburgh this Canadian Exhibition on the law of the sea.

---

---

Caboto -- or Cabot, as the British called him, -- is credited, of course, with the first historically-recorded landing in Canada; but, in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, the waters off our coasts were literally swarming with foreign navigators -- almost as much as they are today with foreign fishing fleets, at the expense of Canadian fishermen!

Archaeologists, of course, have found evidence of Viking and Armorican landings on the eastern coast of North America; and no one will ever convince me that fearless Scots from Lewis or Skye or Mull did not also make the perilous transatlantic voyage -- and regularly! Nevertheless, chroniclers list, after the Italian's first crossing, those of the Portuguese Cortereal in 1500, of the English Warde in 1502, of the Scottish Elliott in 1503 -- a distant ancestor, perhaps, of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau -- and of the French Denys in 1506.

These navigators were drawn to the fog-bound, uncharted and icy stretches of the Northwest Atlantic by the riches of the New World; and, of those riches, only one had then been proved -- the fisheries. After all, it was Cabot's father, Giovanni, who gave Newfoundland its first name -- and it was not "Terra Nova" but "Terra de Bacalão" -- "the land of the Cod"?

In retrospect, this great international adventure seems like an anticipation of contemporary Canada, of what we call the Canadian Mosaic, of people from many lands, brought together within a common political framework by the challenge of building a new society but intent upon preserving their many cultural and ethnic filiations. Look at Cabot: an Italian, hired by an English King, setting foot on an island first settled by the French and peopled later by Scots. The same nations -- and many others -- who sired the great navigators were later to provide Canada with what remains today its scarcest resource: people.

I hardly need say more to establish the ancientness of Canada's maritime orientation, which has led the Canadian Government to play a leading role in current attempts, sponsored by the United Nations, to reform, revamp and modernize the law of the sea. I hardly need explain why a Canadian foreign minister from Nova Scotia would take a most active interest in the sessions of Caracas, Geneva and the third one scheduled to take place next March in New York.

But Canadian interests in the law of the sea are far more than historical. The exhibits before us show that Canada's coastline stretches for some 150,000 miles -- almost 24 times the length of Scotland's, itself one of the longest and most ragged in Europe.

---

We face, in our Arctic regions, environmental problems unique in the world; we contend that Canada must be given management of the fisheries within and beyond the so-called economic zone; we share with a few other nations -- among which is Scotland -- special responsibilities for the preservation of the salmon that spawn in such rivers as the Tweed, the Fraser and the Matapédia; and I should not even remind Scots, benefiting as they are from the North Sea oil-boom, of the need for an international legal régime that facilitates, rather than hinders, the exploitation of the oceans' mineral resources.

The economic stakes for both Britain and Canada in a thorough reform of the law of the sea are, therefore, considerable; and this is why our two governments have worked in close co-operation at Caracas and Geneva and will continue to do so in New York. Of course, we all have our national interests (I just mentioned some of Canada's), but I am well aware of Britain's own imperatives -- the traditional sea-lanes of the world. To a certain extent, every country's case is a special case: the landlocked, the islands, those with and without a continental margin. Somehow, all of these special cases have to be accommodated in the new international agreement for which we strive; and this can only be done if the Law of the Sea Conference proceeds by consensus. Such a process is inevitably slow; but unquestionable progress is embodied in the single negotiating text issued at the end of the Geneva Conference.

Nevertheless, as I pointed out to the General Assembly of the United Nations last month, the search for consensus, past a certain point in time, becomes procrastination; and, after a further point in time, procrastination becomes failure. I reiterate, however, that only if the multilateral approach fails to produce an international agreement will the Canadian Government resort to other solutions to protect its fundamental national interests. I hasten to add, however, that I have been much encouraged by the ability of the members of the United Nations -- developing as well as developed -- to adopt by consensus the historical resolution on international economic relations that concluded the seventh special session of the General Assembly. I was also heartened by the co-operative spirit manifested recently by our fishing partners, both in bilateral consultations and at the special meeting in Montreal of the International Commission on Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), where agreement was finally reached on curtailment and more effective control of fishing efforts off our coasts.

All this augurs well for the next -- and, one hopes, the final -- session in New York. And on this more hopeful note I am pleased to declare open this Canadian Exhibition on the Law of the Sea.

---

S/C