



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/27

AN EXAMPLE TO NEIGHBOURS

An address by Prime Minister Diefenbaker to the Governors' Conference, Glacier National Park, Montana, on June 27, 1960.

... The United States and Canada, in unity, fraternity and common dedication, have a message for all mankind. The kinship that exists between our two countries is a vast "seamless net" of interwoven interests based on a common heritage and a common love of freedom, reinforced by the powerful impact of geography and impinging histories. It is well that this is so, for unity of purpose is an imperative necessity not only between our two nations, but among all free nations.

From our beginnings as nations most of this continent has been shared in goodwill and mutual understanding. Only in the long, long ago has either nation seriously disputed the rights of the other. By peaceful settlement of territorial disagreements, and in many other ways, we have shown that two nations, one the most powerful in the world, and the other with a population one-tenth that of its great neighbour, can live side by side in peace and amity, and with full respect for the rights of each other.

This is of world importance today, for the essence of Communist propaganda is that the United States is aggressively minded, and is dominated by aggressive political and military elements. Canadians can do much to interpret the United States to the world. Canada is a member of the Commonwealth which spans all the continents. Canadians can give a conclusive answer, based on fact and experience, to the false interpretation of the ideals and purposes of the United States which has been most effectively propagated throughout the uncommitted world.

Stern Challenges

Our two countries, and indeed all the Western countries, face stern challenges in the 1960's. Those who have the responsibilities of leadership cannot afford to shield their minds from the questions that will have to be answered in the immediate years ahead.

Massive tides of change are surging into the consciousness of mankind. Several areas of human endeavor will test the fibre and faith of the free world in the 1960's, including:

- (1) the relations between the Western nations and the Communist world;
- (2) the continuing and compulsive search for disarmament;
- (3) the problems associated with the world's expanding population.

In a world of tumult and storm, Canadians stand with the Western nations in an unshakable and cherished partnership of confidence, friendship and free co-operation.

Canada's stake in a peaceful future is no less than yours.

It is axiomatic that the ultimate national self-interest of all nations will be served by a reduction of world tension by agreement and without appeasement.

At a time when the trigger of destruction is so sensitive, the choice between peace and war is academic. There will be no world champions at the end of a nuclear war. The avoidance of war must be a policy objective of both East and West, but it cannot be overlooked that Communist leaders in China are more and more engaged in using the frightening language of aggression and seemingly prepared to contemplate a policy involving military risks.

Moscow-Peking Disagreement

Recent Soviet histrionics have been interpreted by many to mean a return to the cold war. The platform of prediction is shaky, but some recent events may give the opposite interpretation. Last week in Bucharest, Chairman Khrushchov reiterated in explicit terms his contention, which represents the apparent antithesis of the Communist Chinese view, that war with the capitalist world is not the inevitable outcome of the East-West conflict. If that is so, the challenge from the Soviet bloc in the next decade will come more and more in the economic and political spheres, with the purpose of undermining the free world economically, and sapping its political strength.

The Soviet leaders believe that developments in the colonial areas are working to the advantage of the Soviet Union. They expect that, as these countries become independent, they will look increasingly to the Soviet Union and to Communism for support and guidance.

To meet the Soviet challenge demands the maintenance of strong defences while the search goes on for effective disarmament agreement. Canada considers that the centre of the defensive system of the Western nations must continue to be the NATO alliance, with NORAD being maintained on this continent as part of the responsibilities of the alliance.

The West must resist tendencies toward disunity, whether inspired by Communist tactics or by conflicts of interest among friends and allies. The pathway to unity lies in persistent and co-ordinated consultation. It lies, too, in ensuring that the direction of Western affairs is not concentrated in the hands of a limited number of major powers.

Canadians believe that whatever the discouragement and frustrations may be, the Western nations must continue their quest for an agreement on disarmament, without lowering their guard until it is achieved.

The negotiations for a treaty on nuclear tests have made progress that four or five years ago would have been unthinkable. The discontinuance of nuclear tests could be a long first step towards disarmament.

It is of the utmost importance that the West should not brand the Soviet proposals as nothing but a facade of propaganda. We must aim for the achievement of balanced concessions for neither side can afford to agree on measures which will result in military disadvantage to itself.

Paramount Task

Lifting the burden of hunger, poverty and ignorance which lies heavy on the backs of hundreds of millions of people in the under-developed countries of the world may well be the greatest task of this decade. Whatever we may be able to do about the other urgent issues which face our world, peace and prosperity for the West are not likely to endure long if three-quarters of the world's population must struggle to achieve even a minimum standard of living.

Empty stomachs cannot be fed by political theories or political institutions.

One of the great needs of the less-developed countries is food for the expanding populations. Every day another 250,000 hungry new mouths are born into the world, the majority of them in countries whose populations have already outstripped local food supplies. Yet, on the other side of the picture we see the spectacle familiar to Americans and Canadians of surplus food which cannot be sold at a reasonable rate of return to the producer.

Stable and prosperous countries are the best customers. If we can help the under-developed countries achieve a high level of political stability and economic activity, the benefits of their development will be shared by all the world's trading nations.

Canadians recognize that the United States has the leading role to play in development assistance, and that it has been playing that role since the war generously and as never before by any other nation, but this task is one in which all the better-off nations must participate.

Foreign Aid

As evidence of its determination to do its part, Canada has given \$4,422 million in all forms of foreign aid since 1945, including nearly \$300 million in bilateral aid to Asian countries in the past ten years under the Colombo Plan. Furthermore, Canada, along with other Commonwealth countries, has agreed to give urgent consideration to the economic development needs of newly independent nations in Africa.

Whether or not the Communists press their economic offensive everywhere in the world, the basic need for survival of free men is to maintain and co-operatively develop the economic strength of all the countries which are united in the stand against Communism. Nothing is more important in this than trade relations.

Canada is the fourth largest trading country in the world, next only to the United States, the United Kingdom and Western Germany. Canada and the United States have the largest two-way trade of any two countries of the world.

Canada-United States Trade

The importance of the United States-Canada trade is evident in the fact that in 1959 the United States absorbed 62 per cent of Canada's total exports, and supplied 67 per cent of all the goods Canadians purchased from abroad.

In 1959 the total of this trade was \$6.9 billion, of which \$3.7 billion represented Canadian purchases from the United States, and \$3.2 billion comprised Canada's sales to the United States. This means that Canada bought \$500 million more from the United States than she sold to it.

Almost every State shares directly in the export trade with Canada.

It is not generally known that Brooklyn sells more to Canada than does Argentina; that Louisville sells more to Canada than does New Zealand; that Detroit sells more to Canada than does Brazil; that Chicago sales are equal to purchases from West Germany; that Seattle sells almost as much to Canada as does Norway.

The Lakes' Border States -- Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin -- share 51.5 per cent of the total export trade with Canada.

The Eastern States of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, share 16 per cent.

The Southeastern States -- Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee -- and the Gulf States of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas share in 12.3 per cent of the total export to Canada.

Other States make up the balance.

Good neighbours are good customers, and good neighbourliness between our two countries is good business.

Americans realize that a more prosperous Canada will not only be a better neighbour, but a more effective bulwark against Communism on the North American continent and abroad.

The interests of individual States of the Union must be taken into consideration by the federal administration in the United States. In Canada, the interests of the Provinces must be weighed in national decisions. So, too, while the national interest of our countries must always be of importance, the long-term interests of the free world as a whole must be considered in the national economic courses which are taken by each and every one of the free nations.

While the United States has primacy in leadership in the free world, it must be recognized that an economically strong and ever stronger Canada is necessary for the preservation of North America and for the benefit of the free world generally.

Trade Imbalance

It is common sense that the large trade imbalances between our countries in favour of the United States, which have existed since the war, are of serious economic consequence in the long run. The United States exports mainly manufactured products to Canada. The United States purchases from Canada mainly raw materials, chiefly minerals, metals, newsprint and lumber.

Canada does not ask for favours, but the reduction of this imbalance requires that there be greatly increased imports of Canadian manufactures and other commodities into the United States.

In saying this, I want to make it clear that much has been accomplished in trade relations between our countries and that many difficulties and problems have been resolved in recent years.

While each of our countries maintains its individuality and sovereignty, a common heritage and belief in freedom, geography, history and traditions unite us. The problems which arise between us must be settled with infinite responsibility, consideration and tolerance for each other, thereby giving to the world an example of international neighbourliness.

The essential unity between our countries is based on a common approach to the decencies of international living, to the shared belief that poverty, disease and illiteracy can be eradicated, and to a faith based on the sure knowledge, born of experience, that peoples of goodwill can live in amity and justice.

What role is expected of us in the years ahead? Among the Western nations we are a citadel of defence and joint custodians, with Europe, of Western civilization. We provide for the oppressed and under-developed peoples an example of a political and social system based on human values, based on freedom and the recognition of the human personality. But more is required, for being bountifully blessed by the possession of vast resources, our peoples have a paramount responsibility to help in narrowing the gulf in living standards between the developed and under-developed areas of the world.

Bernard Shaw once said:

"True joy in life is to align oneself with some mighty purpose and not get entangled in the petty troubles of life."

That epitomizes the role that we and other free nations must play. That mighty purpose is no less than the future of free mankind.