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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL 4:30 P.M., E.S.T.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1964.

NOTES FOR OPENING STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE GIVEN BY
THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AT ILE STE. HELENE, MONTREAL ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 4:00 P.M.

Gentlemen,

It has been a great pleasure for me to have met with Mr. Shaw and his colleagues today and to have heard at first hand of the splendid progress which is being made in the planning and organization of Expo 67 by the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition. It is equally a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to tell you something of my reactions to what I have heard and seen today.

Before coming to Montreal today I had, of course, some knowledge of the progress being made, both on the site here in the beautiful St. Lawrence and on the Exhibition as a whole, by the Corporation. The Department of External Affairs, both in Ottawa and through its missions abroad, is in constant touch with the Corporation, and I have heard much about the Exhibition from my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce who is the member of Cabinet directly responsible for it. It is quite another experience, however, to be able to hear about their work directly from those immediately engaged in the planning of the Exhibition, and then to see the magnificent site where these plans will be realized.

My overwhelming impression is of the excellence of the job which is being done by the Commissioner General, Mr. Dupuy,

his deputy, Mr. Shaw, the General Manager, Mr. Kniewasser, and their many colleagues in the Corporation. The 1967 World Exhibition is scheduled to be a central element in the celebration of Canada's Centennial in 1967, and as such it must be a true reflection of this great country, of its past achievements and its future possibilities, at the conclusion of its first century of nationhood. After my visit today I am more than satisfied that Expo 67 will meet this difficult challenge.

The theme of the 1967 World Exhibition is to be "Terre des Hommes", or "Men and His World", a theme which embraces all the achievements of the human being, and which encompasses also the spiritual and material aspirations of a world in evolution. It is a theme which offers to the Exhibition's organizers and its exhibitors, both Canadian and foreign, an opportunity to present here in Montreal in 1967 a synthesis by man of himself and his ways of life, of what he has accomplished, what he is doing, and of his hopes for the future. This is a unique opportunity, one which I know is inspiring the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition to devise imaginative and effective means of depicting the theme, and one which I am sure will be welcomed by an unprecedentedly large number of exhibitors.

We can expect that the attention of the world will be focussed on Canada in 1967, our Centennial year, and Expo 67 will be our greatest opportunity to show our country and its people to the world. The Corporation is aware of this fact; the Federal Government and the governments of the Provinces are aware of it; and Canadians as a whole are becoming increasingly aware of it. The Corporation, as I have said, is doing a magnificent job in

planning and organizing what promises to be the greatest World Exhibition ever held. The Federal Government's plans for a superb Canadian pavilion are, I understand, well advanced, and the Provinces, some separately and some jointly, are busy working out the details of their pavilions and the exhibits which they will present. There will be also, I have learned today, a good many other pavilions and exhibits sponsored by private Canadian companies and associations. Several of these are already being planned in detail, and it is expected that a number of others will be announced shortly.

If Expo 67 will thus show Canada to the world, it will also, of course, bring the world to Canada. It is fitting that Canada should invite the world to the celebration of its Centennial, and since the Exhibition is so important a part of that celebration, the Government has extended invitations through the Department of External Affairs to 136 countries and territories in all parts of the world to participate in it. The response to this initiative has been gratifying in that to date 24 countries have announced officially their acceptance of our invitations, and many of them are already deep in plans for participation in the Exhibition on an impressive scale. The countries which have announced their intention to participate are: Britain, Belgium, France, Morocco, Austria, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Venezuela, Israel, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iran, the United States, Malaysia, Ceylon, the Republic of China, Jamaica, Monaco, Norway, Italy, Iceland, Japan and Czechoslovakia.

I said that the response to date has been gratifying, but there are indications that it may soon be described quite rightly as enthusiastic for there are many other countries which we believe will shortly announce their decisions to participate in the Exhibition. It would not be overly optimistic, I think, to look forward to the representation at the Exhibition of at least fifty, and perhaps more, Commonwealth and foreign countries.

To achieve this remarkable representation from abroad Commissioner General Dupuy and a number of his colleagues in the Corporation have been, are, and will be, visiting most of the countries to which invitations have been extended by the Canadian Government. During these visits they are able personally to outline to members and officials of the governments concerned the possibilities of participation open to them and to advise them about any problems or difficulties which may be anticipated. Canada's missions abroad are assisting the Corporation in this task, and are doing all they can themselves to stimulate interest, provide information and to encourage participation in the Exhibition. They are doing so because the Government, and particularly the Department of External Affairs, gives its enthusiastic support to Expo 67 and to the Corporation whose efforts are, in one sense, an extension of my Department's continuing efforts to make Canada and Canadians better known and understood abroad. I look forward confidently to an extent of participation by other countries in the Exhibition which will be a true expression of the esteem in which Canada is held throughout the world.