

SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN

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STATEMENTS MADE BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J.
MACEachEN, DURING HIS
VISIT TO EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND,

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SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN, AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE
CHAIR AND CENTRE OF CANADIAN STUDIES AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY,
EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 21, 1975

It is conventional courtesy, on an occasion such as this, to begin by expressing pleasure with the company and surroundings, and gratitude to the hosts who have invited one to participate; and this is such a rare occasion in the relationship between Scotland and Canada as well as between the United Kingdom and Canada, that I am tempted to go beyond the conventional. However, as a Nova Scotian with ancestry possessed of an average amount of Scottish canniness, I appreciate the Scot's ability to discount inflated rhetoric! So I intend to resist any temptation to teach my grandmother how to make porridge.

We in Canada, however, do take some pride today in maintaining the various heritages that came to us from Europe. In Cape Breton, on an occasion like this, we still say "S mor mo thoileachadh a bhi an seo am measg dhaoine chairdeil, uasal ionnsaichte," that is, "Great is my delight to be here among friendly, noble and learned people". Or, in our country's other official language, "Quel plaisir de se retrouver parmi des amis au coeur si noble et généreux à l'esprit si savant".

I am most grateful to you, Sir Hugh⁽¹⁾ and to all the others concerned with this event at this historic and honoured university for the warm reception extended to all of us from Canada. May I also congratulate Professor Drummond for the excellence of his inaugural lecture. He has done honour to himself and to Canada this afternoon. He has also launched officially this exciting new instrument for improving understanding and expanding communications between our two countries in a way most promising for the future.

That the first chair and Centre of Canadian studies in the United Kingdom should be in Scotland is in no way surprising.

There are the strongest of ethnic and cultural bonds between our country and this region of the United Kingdom.

I myself represent Nova Scotians of varied Scottish ancestry in our Parliament, but there are also the French-speaking descendants of the Fraser Highlanders in Quebec; the descendants of Scottish settlers of Glengarry in Ontario; the

(1) Sir Hugh Robson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University.

Selkirk immigrants to Manitoba; the Hebrideans who people the south of Saskatchewan; the Glaswegians who dug the first coal mines on Vancouver Island - in all more than two million Canadians who claim Scottish forebears and who form the country's third largest ethnic community.

Many a ship which for two centuries carried Scots westward across the Atlantic, would bring back not only timber for the great shipyards of the Clyde, salt fish, fine furs and abundant wheat, but Canadian students bound for the Scottish universities - St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and particularly Edinburgh.

Quite apart from its high academic standards and intellectual celebrities among the faculty - then as now - there was another circumstance about Edinburgh University that appealed quite naturally to the sons and daughters of Scottish-Canadians: This was what the Commonwealth Universities Year Book discreetly refers to as "the economy of its lodgings".

Scottish immigrants and their children returning from Scottish universities brought to Canada the legendary respect of the Scot for the practical benefits of education. But they also brought with them the Scottish respect for human values, the ready sense of humour, the habit of modesty and warm neighbourliness, and a quiet determination to build a nation devoted to the pursuit of equal access to security and dignity for every individual citizen. The Scottish influence had a profound impact on the early development of Canadian education systems - indeed I suppose it is more to our Scottish ancestors than to any others, that we owe the fact we have long enjoyed in Canada the kind of comprehensive school systems that are still in dispute in parts of this country. From our Scottish ancestors we have learned to relax and enjoy comprehensives.

Canadians acknowledge this debt in many ways - in the thistles and St. Andrews crosses which adorn the coat-of-arms of many of our universities, in the continuing links between teachers and scholars, in the growth of Scottish studies in Canada - as well, I suppose, as in the continuing support of the distillery business, and the continuing disapproval of this habit by some in our Presbyterian congregation!

Two Nova Scotian historians, MacLean and Campbell, have summarized the influence of Scotland on Canada as follows:

"The attitudes of the students in the old land toward education were carried with them and congealed in this new society: the lad of the crofter or tradesman was not turned away from Edinburgh University, nor was he kept out of institutions of higher learning in Nova Scotia because of class distinction."

While the seeds of Scottish education spread rapidly across Canada, the new soil in which they grew inevitably altered the texture of the flower. In a predominantly Scottish area of Nova Scotia - Pictou County - the school curriculum at the turn

of the century included calisthenics and military drill, vocal music, hygiene and temperance, moral and patriotic duties. Today I imagine that of that list of subjects, only calisthenics and perhaps hygiene survive! Still, the Scottish tradition forms part of the educational bedrock upon which the study of Canada, its institutions, its history, geography, economy and literature have developed.

It is evidence of the maturity of our Canadian nationhood today and the inherent value of Canadian studies that the University of Edinburgh has integrated those studies into its own academic programme. We in Canada are deeply complimented by the expanding attention being paid to the study of our history and current affairs at this great university. It is as good evidence as any I can think of that we have truly achieved our independence and established our own modest but unmistakable identity in the world.

To many of you in these ancient lands, where national identity has for centuries been so familiar you seldom think about it, it must seem a little strange that establishing our own distinctive identity is so important to Canadians. It is hard to explain that wish. But it is there. It exists in much the same way as one elder finally realized the reason for church union in Scotland existed. During the debates in the presbyteries, he at last withdrew his opposition in these words: "I think the scheme of union is impractical, ill-considered, unjust, and indeed absolutely idiotic - but there is no doubt it is God's will."

If a distinctive Canadian identity is not necessarily God's will, it is certainly the will of most of any Canadian politician's constituents today; and this is one of those occasions which suggest that perhaps we have established the Canadian identity abroad more clearly than we realize at home in Canada. In selecting as its first objective the support of a new chair and centre of Canadian studies here in one of Britain's most dynamic and honoured centres of learning, the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the United Kingdom has created a prominent focal point for the encouragement of Canadian studies in other British universities and in universities in other European countries.

It is difficult for any Canadian to discuss Canadian culture before an audience like this one facing me today. The difficulty begins in the problem of defining the meaning of culture. You British have had it so long that today, you simply enjoy it, you know you have it, and the definition doesn't matter. We Canadians didn't have it, we think we're beginning to have it, though we're not sure we should enjoy it and we're still trying to define it.

Your Concise Oxford Dictionary is not much help, either. Its definition of culture is as follows: "tillage; rearing, production (of bees, oysters, fish, silk, bacteria): set of bacteria thus produced; improvement by (mental or physical training); intellectual development". Perhaps improvement by mental or physical training, and intellectual development come as close as

possible to describing the new interests that seem to be occupying the attention of Canadians more today than in the past - when tillage, rearing and production tended to be our main preoccupations.

Nevertheless, allow me, by way of conclusion, to say a few words about the wider context of this endeavour, namely Canada's foreign cultural relations. Cultural interest and activity in Canada are enjoying a period of unprecedented vigor. From a base in universities and institutions of higher learning, for a long time almost their sole repositories, cultural programmes have spread to other sectors of society and become more universally accessible. This has led to the decision of my Government to support cultural activities in a number of areas, so that we now have, for example a policy of support for the performing arts, a museums policy, and a policy of support for the production of feature films in Canada.

It was plain that this growth and diversification should be reflected in the foreign policy of our government, so as to project on the international scene the breadth, depth and creativity of Canadian cultural activities. Accordingly, the Government has approved in principle a five-year plan for broader cultural relations with other countries.

The objectives of Canada's foreign cultural policy, subjected as we are to the generally welcome but somewhat too pervasive influences from the United States, are to maintain and strengthen our British and French connections, to sustain our participation in the institutions of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, to diversify our cultural exchanges towards selected countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. For the selection of activities to be undertaken or promoted, we have chosen three criteria.

First, we plan to establish cultural contacts with more countries and to assist Canadian intellectuals and artists in establishing and cultivating stronger ties with their foreign counterparts.

Second, we are attempting to supplement the conventional types of exchanges with programmes in new areas, where the number of requests for assistance we receive, bears testimony to a growing need in Canada, such as more exchanges of teachers in the academic field and more youth exchanges at the cultural level.

Finally, we have borne in mind the findings of important international conferences on cultural exchanges, such as the UNESCO conferences in Helsinki and Venice, which have clearly emphasized the importance of exchanging people, as opposed to simply trading cultural goods. In our view, it is the promotion of contacts with other artists and other audiences which will strengthen relations between different peoples and cultures, and ultimately lead to the production of works meeting contemporary expectations.

An important dimension of this five-year plan is the development of Canadian studies abroad. The project we are launching today is very much a part of this programme. So too is our support for the efforts of British academics to develop a network of Canadian courses in other British universities. In one or more of the fields of geography, literature, history, economics, political science and sociology, actual or potential interests exist at the universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, East Anglia, Leeds, London, Oxford, St. Andrews, Strathclyde, Sussex and Warwick.

I have referred on another occasion to the rôle of Professor Wreford Watson in relation to Canadian studies at this university: but this catalytic rôle has a national dimension as well. He is the first President of the British Association of Canadian Studies which was formally launched only last month at the University of Leeds.

This is the first year that a Canadian studies programme overseas had been supported by our Government. In addition to Britain, other countries now included in this new public affairs element of Canadian foreign policy are France, Japan and the United States. Next year, this programme will be extended to Belgium, Germany and Italy. The Canadian studies component of our five-year plan for expanding cultural relations with other countries is to be developed through the exchange of professors, the support of joint research opportunities, the encouragement of inter-university communications, the provision of Canadian books and learned journals and the organization of conferences and seminars.

You may well ask what the Canadian Government hopes to achieve by this wider projection of Canadian cultural interests and activities on the international scene. I suppose most of all we see this as a new way of testing the qualities of our own achievements as a nation. We believe there are valuable mutual benefits to be gained when countries share not only their separate cultural experiences, at as many levels of people-contact as possible, but also their cultural judgments and critical analyses, favourable or otherwise.

The most important answer to that question, of course, must come from Canadians themselves - our artists, our writers, our performers, our scholars, our scientists, our thinkers, and all others in every national community who support and enjoy their works.

We in Government are aware that culture is not something created by an act of Parliament - not even the Parliament at Westminster! It flows from the minds and the spirits of the individuals who make up a society, a nation. Institutions, governmental and otherwise, can offer encouragement and open new opportunities for cultural endeavours; but only individuals can create those works that go into the formation of a nation's cultural heritage.

It would be rhetoric of the most high-blown order to suggest that Canada's cultural, as distinguished perhaps from political and economic, achievements are about to overtake those of Britain. We have not had the centuries of accumulated experience for one thing.

But I do believe we can realistically hope that, out of the immense variety of historic materials we have inherited in Canada from this European continent, we may gradually continue to make our own contribution to the cultural heritage of mankind, one which shall endure in its own right by its excellence.

If only a few such Canadian achievements are indentified or encouraged by the new institution we are ordaining here today, Canada will once more have sound reason to renew her sense of gratitude and good fortune for enjoying our common heritage.

STATEMENT MADE IN EDINBURGH BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE
ALLAN J. MACEachEN, AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN FOR
THE DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION FOR CANADIAN
STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OCTOBER 21, 1975

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 by expressing 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 Pounds, the final subscription, I understand, had reached, as of last Friday, 222,394 Pounds and 94 Pence. As many of you know, the Canadian Government had agreed to contribute 60,000 Pounds 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 re-asserting 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 which 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.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J.
MACÉACHEN AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION ON
SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES IN CANADA AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF EDINBURGH LIBRARY, OCTOBER 21, 1975.

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 Macenzie, 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 rôles 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 emergence of contemporary Canada.

It was a graduate of Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities the Rev. 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.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J.
MACEachEN AT THE OPENING OF A CANADIAN
EXHIBITION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IN THE
CHAPLAINCY CENTRE OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 22, 1975

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 15th and early 16th 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!

Archeologists, 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 Scot 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 North-West Atlantic by the riches of the New World; and of those riches, only one had then been proven: the fisheries. After all, it was Cabot's father, Giovanni, who gave Newfoundland her 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 a 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 her 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 rôle 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 Scotland - special responsibilities for the preservation of the salmon which spawns in such rivers as the Tweed, the Fraser and the Matapedia; and I should not even remind Scots, benefitting as they are from the North Sea oil boom, of the need for an international legal régime which 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 cooperation 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 to preserve access, for example, as a great shipping nation, to 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 which concluded the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly. I was also heartened by

the cooperative 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 hopefully 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.