

WEBVTT

00:00:03.100 --> 00:00:09.120

<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

00:00:09.560 --> 00:00:11.100

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host Colin Robertson.

00:00:11.600 --> 00:00:22.440

<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode that we are recording on April 16th, we talk with Michael Pearson about his book, Private Letters, Public Matters, The Family Correspondence of Lester B Pearson.

00:00:23.320 --> 00:00:28.260

<v SPEAKER_1>A former career public servant, Michael Pearson is the grandson of former Prime Minister Lester Pearson.

00:00:29.180 --> 00:00:41.680

<v SPEAKER_1>His new book, Private Letters, Public Matters draws on family correspondence, especially that between Pearson and his son Geoffrey, Michael's father, to tell the story of one of Canada's most influential political figures.

00:00:42.520 --> 00:00:53.160

<v SPEAKER_1>Through these letters, Pearson offers a window into the reflections, relationships, and private moments of Mike Pearson's very public life in diplomacy and politics.

00:00:53.960 --> 00:00:58.500

<v SPEAKER_1>It is a splendid biography and I encourage listeners to get a copy of it.

00:00:58.620 --> 00:01:01.140

<v SPEAKER_1>It's meticulously researched and footnoted.

00:01:01.840 --> 00:01:15.440

<v SPEAKER_1>For its new insights into our greatest diplomat, it sits comfortably along Pearson's own three-volume memoirs, his own books of speeches and essays, and his son Geoffrey's book on Suez Seize the Day.

00:01:15.920 --> 00:01:17.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Michael, welcome.

00:01:17.780 --> 00:01:18.300

<v SPEAKER_2>Thank you.

00:01:18.300 --> 00:01:19.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Happy to be here.

00:01:20.140 --> 00:01:21.160
<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started.

00:01:21.740 --> 00:01:23.380
<v SPEAKER_1>Why did you decide to write this book?

00:01:27.140 --> 00:01:30.380
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it was really my mother that I must give credit.

00:01:31.280 --> 00:01:33.800
<v SPEAKER_2>My father died in 2008.

00:01:35.020 --> 00:01:44.800
<v SPEAKER_2>After he died, my mother was, as one would be often the case, rummaging around looking at his effects and so on.

00:01:44.880 --> 00:02:00.040
<v SPEAKER_2>She discovered a filing cabinet in the basement of our house, their house, within which was almost 300 letters, letters written primarily, a majority, I guess, I would say between my father and my grandfather.

00:02:00.540 --> 00:02:09.480
<v SPEAKER_2>Over an almost 40-year period, one, the first one was in 1938 and they continued until my grandfather died, the year my grandfather died in 1972.

00:02:10.820 --> 00:02:27.000
<v SPEAKER_2>We knew a few of these letters because John English, the official biographer of Lester B Pearson, my dad had shown a few of the letters to him and John referred to them in his two volume, Set on LBP, which was published late 80s, early 1990s.

00:02:27.320 --> 00:02:42.180
<v SPEAKER_2>But we certainly didn't know the greater volume that existed, including a whole bunch from World War II that we were unaware of, or that certainly John had not seen a number during the 50s.

00:02:42.180 --> 00:02:51.120
<v SPEAKER_2>My dad had shown, I think, John English, and he used those letters that my grandfather had written to my dad, but none of the letters that my dad had written to my grandfather.

00:02:51.120 --> 00:03:07.280
<v SPEAKER_2>So that was the kind of, my mother looked at those letters, the ones that my dad had written in particular, and she saw a theme, which was degree to which, and I know we'll talk about this in a little bit, to which my grandfather, my father, I should say,

influenced my grandfather's public policy thinking.

00:03:07.500 --> 00:03:11.620

<v SPEAKER_2>And this was particularly in these 50s years when my father was a young diplomat.

00:03:12.320 --> 00:03:24.380

<v SPEAKER_2>And his father was, of course, consecutively, and it's just imagine that, in the first 15 years of your career as a diplomat, your father is the foreign minister first, then the leader of the opposition and then the prime minister.

00:03:25.960 --> 00:03:32.860

<v SPEAKER_2>My dad used to talk about being the son of and the challenges that came with that opportunities, but also probably even more challenges and opportunities.

00:03:34.160 --> 00:03:38.440

<v SPEAKER_2>But he did not want any of these letters to be talked about, didn't use them.

00:03:38.440 --> 00:03:50.420

<v SPEAKER_2>You mentioned Seize the Day, his book on my grandfather's foreign policy diplomacy in the 50s, which ended, or the climatic issue in that regard was Suez.

00:03:50.940 --> 00:03:57.240

<v SPEAKER_2>But my father chose not to mention any of his letters to his dad, and that didn't show any of those to John English.

00:03:57.240 --> 00:04:02.720

<v SPEAKER_2>So my mom said to me, why don't you write about these letters?

00:04:02.720 --> 00:04:28.100

<v SPEAKER_2>Because you're in public service, you're doing international affairs, like your father and grandfather, and it would be really neat to have your perspective as the son of the son to talk about what these letters say and what kind of impact they might have had and what they said about the two men, what they said about the families, what they said about Canada, frankly, and about Canada, not just Canada domestically, but Canada and the world.

00:04:28.580 --> 00:04:33.360

<v SPEAKER_2>And at the time, this is 2008, as I mentioned, I said I'd be happy to do that, Mom.

00:04:33.360 --> 00:04:39.460

<v SPEAKER_2>The problem is I have three young children and full-time jobs, so I'm not sure when I'll be able to do it.

00:04:39.680 --> 00:04:42.340
<v SPEAKER_2>But luckily, the idea stuck.

00:04:42.800 --> 00:04:49.940
<v SPEAKER_2>And when Carrie got her appointment, my spouse as ambassador to NATO in 2015, I took a leave of absence.

00:04:49.940 --> 00:04:52.240
<v SPEAKER_2>I was working at the Department of Fisheries then.

00:04:52.680 --> 00:04:55.680
<v SPEAKER_2>Took a leave of absence and started writing the book when we were in Brussels.

00:04:56.120 --> 00:04:59.920
<v SPEAKER_2>Came back, went back to work full-time, so had to put Penn down again.

00:05:00.720 --> 00:05:06.480
<v SPEAKER_2>But when I retired three years ago, I took it up again and we finally got it over the finish line.

00:05:07.420 --> 00:05:23.420
<v SPEAKER_1>So this is really almost a decade-long project, because what struck me as I was reading the book is that you had read all of the memoirs, the speeches, words and occasions, your father's book, and a lot of the secondary commentary.

00:05:23.420 --> 00:05:26.080
<v SPEAKER_1>You probably done research at the archives as well.

00:05:26.080 --> 00:05:27.840
<v SPEAKER_1>So that took some time, did it not?

00:05:28.180 --> 00:05:30.160
<v SPEAKER_2>It did.

00:05:30.160 --> 00:05:31.160
<v SPEAKER_2>I was all on my own.

00:05:31.160 --> 00:05:39.400
<v SPEAKER_2>It was not as if I was a professor who had a research assistant or somebody who could do that kind of legwork, which you really have to do.

00:05:39.400 --> 00:05:55.900
<v SPEAKER_2>And interestingly enough, Colin, all the way through, I was sort of trying to find a way of writing this book that balanced two things, one that had the rigor, the research rigor that you

mentioned, and thank you for recognizing that.

00:05:55.900 --> 00:05:57.740

<v SPEAKER_2>But at the same time was accessible.

00:05:58.740 --> 00:06:08.480

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there are sometimes people might say that sometimes academic books which are really well written and well researched and so on can be less accessible to the average reader, shall we say.

00:06:09.500 --> 00:06:18.580

<v SPEAKER_2>On the other hand, I didn't want to have something that was kind of a repeat or talking about stories that were already known when it came to my grandfather in particular.

00:06:19.040 --> 00:06:20.460

<v SPEAKER_2>So what was that right balance?

00:06:20.840 --> 00:06:25.120

<v SPEAKER_2>Trying to adopt a storytelling style as I do and make it accessible.

00:06:25.120 --> 00:06:31.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I always said to myself, what would my three daughters, so leading aside the family connection, they're all in their late thirties now.

00:06:31.780 --> 00:06:39.160

<v SPEAKER_2>I said, how would they want to, what would be interesting to them in this kind of book?

00:06:39.160 --> 00:06:52.420

<v SPEAKER_2>It's easy to say that people who are in their sixties or seventies or older who kind of knew LBP or knew of him, they'd have one maybe a natural attraction if they liked him, that is.

00:06:52.420 --> 00:06:58.700

<v SPEAKER_2>But that generation and younger generations would only know Pearson by name.

00:06:59.140 --> 00:07:10.160

<v SPEAKER_2>Or as I joked in a couple of occasions, the name would sometimes just bring curses because they'd think about the Pearson Airport and endless delays.

00:07:10.740 --> 00:07:12.120

<v SPEAKER_2>So how to make it accessible to them?

00:07:12.120 --> 00:07:19.460

<v SPEAKER_2>So I kind of took an approach which while academically rigorous, I think as far as the research was concerned, also told stories.

00:07:19.460 --> 00:07:22.400

<v SPEAKER_2>And if you read, you mentioned my grandfather's memoirs.

00:07:22.700 --> 00:07:25.380

<v SPEAKER_2>The first volume of those memoirs he wrote entirely himself.

00:07:25.380 --> 00:07:30.520

<v SPEAKER_2>The second and third volume, partly written by him, but he died before he was able to finish them.

00:07:30.900 --> 00:07:38.340

<v SPEAKER_2>And you can see the difference because the first volume of the memoirs, he's just a storyteller, my grandfather, and it's very compelling.

00:07:38.340 --> 00:07:41.040

<v SPEAKER_2>So I thought, why don't I try to adopt a similar style to that?

00:07:41.600 --> 00:07:54.360

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm curious, you've read it, a few people have read it so far, and I'm trying to see if I can get that thing across, that idea across or that enjoyment across that comes with just a storytelling style that I adopted.

00:07:55.180 --> 00:07:56.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I think you succeeded.

00:07:57.620 --> 00:08:01.200

<v SPEAKER_1>I got into it and just kept reading because it is told like a story.

00:08:01.760 --> 00:08:09.460

<v SPEAKER_1>You're right, too much of the stuff that academics turn out and scholars turn out, is pretty tough to go through.

00:08:10.140 --> 00:08:17.860

<v SPEAKER_1>I've had to do that and I admire you for having to do that as well because they've done the research and especially for what you were trying to do, you had to read of that.

00:08:18.280 --> 00:08:36.860

<v SPEAKER_1>Until now, I put my friend Andrew Cohen's book up as part of the Penguin series because he tells a good story about your father, but you go into much more depth because you had much better access to

the material and it's a story that I did not know and learned an awful lot.

00:08:37.100 --> 00:08:42.340

<v SPEAKER_1>I guess I would then turn and say to you, what did you learn about your grandfather and your father that you didn't know?

00:08:44.280 --> 00:08:45.460

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a good question.

00:08:46.300 --> 00:08:49.540

<v SPEAKER_2>I was 13 when my grandfather died.

00:08:49.580 --> 00:08:50.280

<v SPEAKER_1>You'd stayed with him.

00:08:50.280 --> 00:08:53.760

<v SPEAKER_1>As I read to the end, you'd, I think you were asking.

00:08:53.760 --> 00:08:54.360

<v SPEAKER_2>I did, yeah.

00:08:54.360 --> 00:08:56.480

<v SPEAKER_2>I was his last year.

00:08:56.500 --> 00:08:58.700

<v SPEAKER_1>I was teaching out there and I thought that was really interesting.

00:08:58.700 --> 00:09:00.060

<v SPEAKER_1>I did not know that part of it.

00:09:00.240 --> 00:09:10.900

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, I was living in Ottawa, just come back from India and my parents were at West for a year and I stayed back in Ottawa and had a chance to visit my grandfather and grandmother.

00:09:10.900 --> 00:09:14.360

<v SPEAKER_2>I didn't live with them, but I went to see them all the time.

00:09:14.900 --> 00:09:19.160

<v SPEAKER_2>I was in a boarding school which was literally three blocks away.

00:09:19.960 --> 00:09:25.660

<v SPEAKER_2>I go over all the time to see him and really got to know him better just in that last few months, which was great.

00:09:26.920 --> 00:09:31.060

<v SPEAKER_2>I knew about his interest in things like sports and so on, which I talk about.

00:09:32.140 --> 00:09:33.660

<v SPEAKER_2>I knew that he had an interest in sports.

00:09:33.660 --> 00:09:41.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I think to answer the question about him, one of the things I did learn was the degree to which he was really a sports nut.

00:09:41.680 --> 00:09:47.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, he played sports often as a young man, as a child, as a young man.

00:09:47.640 --> 00:09:49.300

<v SPEAKER_2>He was quite good at them, actually.

00:09:49.340 --> 00:09:51.280

<v SPEAKER_1>He was particularly good at baseball, I think you pointed out.

00:09:51.280 --> 00:09:52.600

<v SPEAKER_2>Hockey and baseball were his two best.

00:09:52.600 --> 00:10:00.980

<v SPEAKER_2>He used to joke that the distinguishing mark of him as a diplomat was that he was the only diplomat he was aware of that was paid to play baseball.

00:10:02.380 --> 00:10:04.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Did he play at Oxford Hockey for the...

00:10:04.780 --> 00:10:06.160

<v SPEAKER_2>Hockey was Oxford, yeah.

00:10:06.160 --> 00:10:11.160

<v SPEAKER_2>That was the Oxford University Blues in the early 1920s, which were a very good hockey team.

00:10:11.160 --> 00:10:14.240

<v SPEAKER_2>Twenty-three players, twenty-two of them are Canadians, so maybe that's why.

00:10:16.300 --> 00:10:20.780

<v SPEAKER_2>And Rollie Mitchener, our governor general in the 60s, appointed by my grandfather, was part of that team.

00:10:21.420 --> 00:10:23.040

<v SPEAKER_2>Also a long-time conservative MP.

00:10:23.860 --> 00:10:25.520
<v SPEAKER_2>So he played lacrosse too.

00:10:26.400 --> 00:10:28.220
<v SPEAKER_2>He coached at the University of Toronto.

00:10:28.220 --> 00:10:34.620
<v SPEAKER_2>He was an academic for a short time in the mid-20s and was the coach of the varsity football team and the hockey team.

00:10:35.040 --> 00:10:44.480
<v SPEAKER_2>And then even after he went into foreign affairs, or external as it was called then in 1928, he still kept up his sporting interests.

00:10:44.480 --> 00:10:51.860
<v SPEAKER_2>And then as he got older and couldn't play so much, he ended up becoming more of a spectator, a professional sports spectator as well.

00:10:51.860 --> 00:11:04.800
<v SPEAKER_2>And as you know, there's stories in the book about his sports interests, but also in particular his interest in the Toronto Maple Leafs because he was born and brought up in Toronto, or the area around Toronto, so the Leafs were always his team.

00:11:06.240 --> 00:11:07.040
<v SPEAKER_2>But he loved baseball.

00:11:07.040 --> 00:11:10.240
<v SPEAKER_2>He was an honorary president of Montreal Expos in the late 1960s.

00:11:10.240 --> 00:11:11.220
<v SPEAKER_2>That was kind of cool.

00:11:12.080 --> 00:11:18.280
<v SPEAKER_2>So I think I knew something about his sporting interests, but I didn't know the depth of it, and that was something that was revealing this.

00:11:18.280 --> 00:11:22.240
<v SPEAKER_2>Another thing that I learned about him was his prescience.

00:11:22.240 --> 00:11:29.260
<v SPEAKER_2>I think a lot of people talk about the skill of his diplomacy, and that's definitely a significant part of who he was.

00:11:29.660 --> 00:11:32.260

<v SPEAKER_2>But he was also someone who could see the future.

00:11:35.200 --> 00:11:44.020

<v SPEAKER_2>My dad described it as being at the right place at the right time, but you have to seize the opportunity, and hence my dad's book called Seize the Day, Carpe Diem.

00:11:44.240 --> 00:12:01.780

<v SPEAKER_2>But it was really about my grandfather's ability to kind of see the future and to know or to envisage what the future might hold, particularly the darker sides of it, and to see what he could do to try to minimize the chances that bad things could happen.

00:12:01.780 --> 00:12:09.180

<v SPEAKER_2>And that was obviously the most significant issue in that regard was atomic energy and the use of atomic energy for nefarious purposes.

00:12:09.420 --> 00:12:21.260

<v SPEAKER_2>He has, there's a line in my, or a little small piece in my book, as you right remember, Colin, his speech to a church audience in Ottawa in 1934.

00:12:22.240 --> 00:12:30.280

<v SPEAKER_2>So, almost a decade, if not, about a decade or more before, just over a decade before Hiroshima.

00:12:30.740 --> 00:12:47.520

<v SPEAKER_2>And he said in that speech to what I think would have been befuddled churchgoers about atomic energy, saying, on the one hand, this energy, which has not yet been formally invented or talked about in any serious way, could have a huge positive impact on humanity.

00:12:47.720 --> 00:12:53.080

<v SPEAKER_2>And he was right about that, the ability to energy creation for power generation, etc.

00:12:53.480 --> 00:13:04.020

<v SPEAKER_2>But he said there was also a dark side, the possibility that this power could be used for negative and horrific purposes, which of course is what ended up happening at the end of World War II.

00:13:04.020 --> 00:13:20.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So his prescience about that, and as you know, there's a long standing thread right through the book about his efforts to try to promote nuclear disarmament and opportunities to try to control that superpower, that atomic energy is and was and is.

00:13:21.920 --> 00:13:28.600

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that was something I didn't know as much about before I wrote the book.

00:13:29.140 --> 00:14:04.360

<v SPEAKER_2>As far as my dad's concerned, I think I shared my mom's interest in the peak interest she had in the degree to which the letters revealed my dad's influence on my grandfather's thinking issues like my dad was served in France during the mid 1950s his first diplomatic posting and he used to write back to his father about my grandfather about French politics and the degree to which the nature of how French politics was evolving at the time.

00:14:04.360 --> 00:14:10.940

<v SPEAKER_2>They were mired in Indochina, for example, and they were having other colonial power issues in Algeria and elsewhere.

00:14:10.940 --> 00:14:15.700

<v SPEAKER_2>And de Gaulle was not back in power yet, but he was kind of on the sidelines, barking from the sidelines.

00:14:16.260 --> 00:14:20.540

<v SPEAKER_2>French governments changed every nine months on average in those days because they were so unstable.

00:14:20.540 --> 00:14:28.320

<v SPEAKER_2>But he commented to my grandfather about some of the French politicians, the prime ministers and what their dilemmas were, what their issues were.

00:14:28.800 --> 00:14:45.380

<v SPEAKER_2>And you could see a direct line between my father's commentary to my grandfather about what the French prime minister was trying to do on an issue and how we needed to try to encourage my grandfather to try to influence the Americans to understand that point of view from France.

00:14:45.740 --> 00:14:51.860

<v SPEAKER_2>And then you see a direct line as I show in the book, my grandfather actually talking to the Americans almost exactly on that basis.

00:14:51.860 --> 00:15:04.440

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's just one example, but I think I certainly didn't recognize the degree to which my dad was, even at that young age, what was he, a diplomat who had been a diplomat for four or five years, even less than that at the time he was writing these letters in the mid-50s.

00:15:05.160 --> 00:15:24.340

<v SPEAKER_2>But his ability, but ability that had started much

earlier, and kind of touched on this already a little bit about the degree to which even in World War II and then the early years after World War II and my dad was in university, he was already starting to offer views to my grandfather about international issues and so on.

00:15:24.340 --> 00:15:29.560

<v SPEAKER_2>You see a bit of a trend there and then obviously accelerated during the 50s and into the 60s.

00:15:30.360 --> 00:15:34.060

<v SPEAKER_2>That degree of that influence I certainly underappreciated.

00:15:34.660 --> 00:15:44.440

<v SPEAKER_2>I mentioned French foreign policy, but it was also on liberal defence policy, which was nuclear defence policy in late 1950s, early 1960s, which was a bit of a pretzel as I call it.

00:15:44.900 --> 00:16:02.640

<v SPEAKER_2>NATO, my grandfather is one of the founders, co-founders of NATO, but my father also spent time helping my grandfather think through how to manage NATO's nuclear deterrent question, et cetera, in the context of the pressure in the early 1960s for nuclear disarmament, the public pressure.

00:16:02.640 --> 00:16:09.320

<v SPEAKER_2>I know we'll come back to that question, but that was something I was not as aware of certainly in my father.

00:16:09.340 --> 00:16:14.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Then finally, maybe wrapping up some of those points, my father's analytical skills.

00:16:14.740 --> 00:16:24.160

<v SPEAKER_2>My father was incredibly cool in the sense of being a rational, analytical thinker.

00:16:25.200 --> 00:16:30.200

<v SPEAKER_2>You see this very clearly in the correspondence, how he writes to my grandfather and not just him, but to others.

00:16:30.480 --> 00:16:41.500

<v SPEAKER_2>His analysis of issues, international issues in particular, and how to think about them and how to manage them was quite remarkable.

00:16:42.700 --> 00:16:57.760

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's a quote you use in your review, Colin, about my grandfather at one point saying to my father, you have this very capable, sharp, analytical capacity, and it's a fantastic skill, but

it may get you fired.

00:16:59.060 --> 00:17:01.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Because my father was happy to speak truth to power.

00:17:03.000 --> 00:17:12.740

<v SPEAKER_2>He was not afraid, obviously, his own father that was one dynamic, but he had a broader reputation of being willing to speak truth to power to others.

00:17:14.120 --> 00:17:20.940

<v SPEAKER_2>I think you saw that early on, and that's something I think I underappreciated until I saw this correspondence and was able to write about it.

00:17:21.600 --> 00:17:34.840

<v SPEAKER_2>I was already an admirer of my father's, I guess most children are, but that skill set that he had and he developed from a very early age as a letter show was quite remarkable to me to see.

00:17:35.860 --> 00:17:39.000

<v SPEAKER_3>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:17:39.260 --> 00:17:43.500

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00:17:52.740 --> 00:17:57.620

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00:17:58.980 --> 00:18:06.420

<v SPEAKER_1>I can certainly attest to that because he was my first big boss when I joined the department and went to the UN Bureau and your father was the Assistant Undersecretary.

00:18:07.900 --> 00:18:11.100

<v SPEAKER_1>He was formidable and you really did have to know your stuff.

00:18:12.000 --> 00:18:23.680

<v SPEAKER_1>He went in and he asked penetrating questions and he used to have a pipe and he would be there and he would put it in his mouth

and he would look at you and stare and you get these questions.

00:18:24.900 --> 00:18:32.020

<v SPEAKER_1>You soon learned that if you weren't prepared, don't go into that office because you'd leave with your tail between your legs.

00:18:32.020 --> 00:18:37.300

<v SPEAKER_1>As you say, he could be pretty sharp and I'm not sure all of his colleagues appreciated that.

00:18:37.640 --> 00:18:42.940

<v SPEAKER_1>But I learned that, as you say, he also, like your grandfather, was pretty prescient.

00:18:42.940 --> 00:18:47.700

<v SPEAKER_1>He would say, well, if you looked at this or you looked at that, and it was for me a superb training.

00:18:48.120 --> 00:18:49.660

<v SPEAKER_1>He was very kind to me throughout my career.

00:18:49.660 --> 00:18:57.560

<v SPEAKER_1>We stayed in touch and as you point out his prescience, I remember him early on.

00:19:00.240 --> 00:19:11.740

<v SPEAKER_1>When you were working with probably with Lloyd Axworthy on human security, your father took me to lunch at the Chateau Laurier in Wilfrids, and we were chatting away, and I said, this is really a great rage.

00:19:11.740 --> 00:19:18.780

<v SPEAKER_1>He said, well, he said, there's something you got to remember, that this is great soft power, but you've got to have hard power to back it up.

00:19:18.780 --> 00:19:20.820

<v SPEAKER_1>That was the lesson from his father.

00:19:20.820 --> 00:19:24.020

<v SPEAKER_1>He said, I'm not sure everybody who's working on this understands that part of it.

00:19:24.540 --> 00:19:30.880

<v SPEAKER_1>And years before he died, when I was working at Historica, he used to come and speak to the students from time to time.

00:19:30.880 --> 00:19:35.620

<v SPEAKER_1>And I caught him in one of our last, and Justin Trudeau

showed up.

00:19:35.980 --> 00:19:40.780

<v SPEAKER_1>He spoke and your dad said to me, he has the capacity to become a prime minister.

00:19:40.780 --> 00:19:43.740

<v SPEAKER_1>And I kind of doubted at the time, but your dad was right.

00:19:43.880 --> 00:19:46.860

<v SPEAKER_1>So it was interesting.

00:19:47.040 --> 00:19:51.180

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, I'll move because you've talked about defence and nuclear weapons and things.

00:19:51.180 --> 00:19:52.640

<v SPEAKER_1>This really was a big deal.

00:19:52.980 --> 00:19:56.620

<v SPEAKER_1>And reading the book again reminded me of that period of time.

00:19:56.820 --> 00:20:00.340

<v SPEAKER_1>And it divided your grandmother and your father.

00:20:01.040 --> 00:20:03.000

<v SPEAKER_1>And your father had to sort of balance all of this.

00:20:03.000 --> 00:20:05.220

<v SPEAKER_1>And of course, the Liberal Party went through some contortions.

00:20:05.220 --> 00:20:06.720

<v SPEAKER_1>I think you used the word pretzel.

00:20:07.080 --> 00:20:13.300

<v SPEAKER_1>But your grandfather eventually came up with what I think was probably the right approach.

00:20:13.580 --> 00:20:16.920

<v SPEAKER_1>But do you want to give our listeners some sense of what that was all about?

00:20:16.920 --> 00:20:24.940

<v SPEAKER_1>Because the disarmament movement, certainly when I first joined, was analogous in many ways to today's climate movement.

00:20:26.620 --> 00:20:30.040

<v SPEAKER_1>It really had fairly broad popular support.

00:20:30.260 --> 00:20:34.420

<v SPEAKER_1>And people took it almost religiously.

00:20:34.560 --> 00:20:37.520

<v SPEAKER_1>So give the audience some sense of what this is about.

00:20:37.520 --> 00:20:39.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Because you do, I think you write very well on it.

00:20:39.800 --> 00:20:44.100

<v SPEAKER_1>And as you say, the division within your own family I found really interesting.

00:20:45.620 --> 00:21:02.660

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, you know, I occasionally get the question, and I expect I'll get it again about the typical so Iran today, what would your grandfather if he was alive today, what would he be saying kind of thing, which is almost an impossible question to answer, frankly.

00:21:03.300 --> 00:21:08.740

<v SPEAKER_2>But what is true is that he had this sensitivity.

00:21:09.180 --> 00:21:38.220

<v SPEAKER_2>We mentioned already that 1934 speech, but he had an ability, my grandfather, to kind of see that both collective defence as reflected by NATO, and in particular its reliance on nuclear deterrence as it developed in the 1950s and onward, and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament primarily through UN auspices, not only but primarily were not contradictory goals.

00:21:38.800 --> 00:21:43.020

<v SPEAKER_2>It was possible, my grandfather always felt, to be able to pursue both.

00:21:43.020 --> 00:21:52.800

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think his American counterparts thought the same way, or could understand that nuance, or the fact that you could have pursue both sides of the same coin.

00:21:54.160 --> 00:21:55.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Kennedy seemed to get it.

00:21:55.700 --> 00:22:02.180

<v SPEAKER_2>Kennedy to some degree, and of course the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed when Kennedy was still president.

00:22:03.220 --> 00:22:05.000

<v SPEAKER_1>Your grandfather probably had some influence.

00:22:06.180 --> 00:22:08.160

<v SPEAKER_2>They definitely talked about it and its importance.

00:22:08.160 --> 00:22:28.260

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think what's really interesting, if you see the flow of LBP's foreign policy on these issues, right through from World War II onwards, first his efforts in the very early post-war period to try to promote a UN solution to have atomic energy only used for peaceful purposes.

00:22:28.880 --> 00:22:34.820

<v SPEAKER_2>That floundered because neither the Americans or the Soviets were prepared to support such a strategy.

00:22:34.940 --> 00:22:39.200

<v SPEAKER_2>Soviets, of course, did not have their atomic weapon by then, and they just wanted to have one.

00:22:39.200 --> 00:22:41.960

<v SPEAKER_2>So but then you go on into the 50s.

00:22:42.260 --> 00:22:59.040

<v SPEAKER_2>And there were times, as the book reveals, and is not news for some people, but certainly the degree of it was a bit of news for me, that sense of how close we came on several occasions during the 1950s, the early part of the 1950s in particular.

00:22:59.040 --> 00:23:02.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Korea, to some degree, Korea was the first example of that.

00:23:03.300 --> 00:23:20.560

<v SPEAKER_2>And this is, people say, well, back to my earlier point about how would LBP deal with Iran or something, part of the issue is, the real issue is, how would he deal with the US president and the lunatic fringe that seems to be around there?

00:23:21.260 --> 00:23:59.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, although I don't think the current president has a rival when it comes to the degree of what seems to be lunatic politics that he seems to pursue, there were some pretty crazy Americans in high positions, I'm not necessarily saying presidents, but certainly in high positions, secretaries of state like Dean Acheson and others, Foster Dulles, perhaps more, so Eisenhower, who were seeing nuclear, and this is by the way in the 50s, it sort of was part of US policy to see nuclear weapons as yet another battlefield weapon that could be used.

00:23:59.400 --> 00:24:00.020

<v SPEAKER_2>They talked about it.

00:24:00.020 --> 00:24:07.000

<v SPEAKER_2>It was, interestingly enough, a president like Eisenhower who had been through World War II, who was the kind of person who was much more cautious about that.

00:24:07.880 --> 00:24:18.240

<v SPEAKER_2>But the policy did exist that the Americans could use nuclear weapons as a means to stop a conventional attack, whether it was by the Soviets in Europe or even elsewhere.

00:24:18.580 --> 00:24:19.880

<v SPEAKER_2>And they talked seriously about that.

00:24:19.880 --> 00:24:26.840

<v SPEAKER_2>And my grandfather was constantly concerned or worried about that and was willing, not just privately, but occasionally publicly, to speak up about it.

00:24:27.580 --> 00:24:55.380

<v SPEAKER_2>A couple more than one occasion where he did that, cautioning the US, cautioning in Korea, for example, not to use nuclear weapons when the Chinese crossed the border and basically pushed the US-led UN forces way down the Korean Peninsula and General MacArthur, who was a bit of a lunatic general, wanted to use nuclear weapons to stop them.

00:24:56.060 --> 00:25:10.520

<v SPEAKER_2>And other stories I told about the French hoping maybe at when they were facing defeat in the China in 1954, wanted to use a nuclear weapon or encouraging the Americans to do, to use one to stop the North Vietnamese or even in Taiwan.

00:25:11.240 --> 00:25:20.040

<v SPEAKER_2>And around that same time when the Chinese were saber rattling against Taiwan, there were several occasions where it came close.

00:25:20.040 --> 00:25:29.840

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, most people think about the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 as being another, you know, as the real example of where we came close to a nuclear confrontation.

00:25:30.200 --> 00:25:32.880

<v SPEAKER_2>But many, many others existed leading up to that time.

00:25:32.880 --> 00:25:40.880

<v SPEAKER_2>I didn't even mention Berlin, the Berlin Wall, the Berlin Blockade, I should say it happened twice, leading up to the building

of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

00:25:40.880 --> 00:25:53.100

<v SPEAKER_2>So all of that, all that period, there was a very, very ongoing effort made by LBP to try to, to promote disarmament as a way to get off of that.

00:25:53.100 --> 00:26:14.160

<v SPEAKER_2>But at the same time, you know, to get, to push the Americans away from, from trying to use that weapon, to encourage a negotiation that might lead to not just de-escalation, but also a reduction in, in, in arsenals, which were obviously in those days still relatively small, but, but you only needed one in some of these theaters to have a devastating impact.

00:26:14.600 --> 00:26:20.700

<v SPEAKER_2>So he was, I think, very, his efforts, LBP's efforts to try to promote that.

00:26:20.980 --> 00:26:33.180

<v SPEAKER_2>And his view did not contradict his, his equal view that NATO to be credible, particularly in the later 1950s and onwards, had to have an effective nuclear capability.

00:26:33.720 --> 00:26:47.180

<v SPEAKER_2>But not to the point where, as sometimes the American said, as soon as the Soviets would, you know, if the Soviets invaded in Europe in the 19, later 1950s, use a, use a, use an atomic weapon right away to stop them.

00:26:47.860 --> 00:26:53.360

<v SPEAKER_2>Which is something, which was a ridiculous policy because it kind of put brinkmanship right to the front, right off the bat.

00:26:53.480 --> 00:26:55.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Some people saw that that's the ultimate deterrence.

00:26:55.280 --> 00:26:56.360

<v SPEAKER_2>That's how you stop it.

00:26:56.760 --> 00:27:07.300

<v SPEAKER_2>And others thought, what do you know, you're just going down this, this sliding, this slide to, to one person pushing a button, another person pushing a button and non-nuclear first, and all of a sudden it's nuclear.

00:27:07.300 --> 00:27:10.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So he was very conscious and concerned about that.

00:27:11.460 --> 00:27:21.640

<v SPEAKER_2>And saw disarmament as a way to try to, can never put the genie back in the bottle, but to try to promote ways to, to calm people down.

00:27:21.760 --> 00:27:33.560

<v SPEAKER_2>And what is interesting just to leap ahead is, as you know, Colin, when Pierre Trudeau became Prime Minister and to some extent repudiated some of LBP's approach, Pearsonian diplomacy as it was called.

00:27:34.100 --> 00:27:53.000

<v SPEAKER_2>By the end of his time as Prime Minister, what Pierre Trudeau did with the Peace Initiative in 1983, 84, and even before that what was called the strategy of suffocation, nuclear suffocation in 1978, remarkably similar elements in those to what Pearson tried to do back in the 50s.

00:27:54.140 --> 00:27:55.880

<v SPEAKER_2>40s, 50s, and 60s.

00:27:56.340 --> 00:28:02.060

<v SPEAKER_2>So that continuity in the end was, I think, something that was really significant.

00:28:02.160 --> 00:28:18.340

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, and you touched on this, there were voices in my grandfather's ear, my grandmother, for example, who joined the Canadian Voice of Women in 1960 or 61, and was advocating very strongly in favor of nuclear disarmament.

00:28:18.340 --> 00:28:33.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So he was hearing that voice, and then he was hearing my dad, who was at NATO headquarters, which was in Paris still in the early 1960s, saying, you must stick hard to the policy of nuclear deterrence and advocacy for keeping that policy.

00:28:34.680 --> 00:28:57.320

<v SPEAKER_2>So my father and my grandmother did not see eye to eye on this at all, and LBP obviously had the broader issue or the broader context of Americans and Europeans and others barking in different ways on these kinds of issues, but he also had his own personal barking going on in his ear between my dad on the one hand and my grandmother on the other.

00:28:57.320 --> 00:29:04.720

<v SPEAKER_2>So it was, I think a lot of people say, what was LBP's, where do you get those diplomatic skills?

00:29:04.720 --> 00:29:06.580

<v SPEAKER_2>Or what was that diplomatic skill?

00:29:06.580 --> 00:29:24.540

<v SPEAKER_2>And I said that was actually the ability to juggle what looked like contradictory ideas at the same time and not see them as being contradictory, seeing them as being just some, I wouldn't say complimentary, but as ones where you could pursue both without looking like you were not serious about one or the other.

00:29:25.320 --> 00:29:34.780

<v SPEAKER_1>So that juggling capacity that made him such a good diplomat, because he really does everything you read, the secondary sources, the parographies, he really was a great diplomat.

00:29:36.840 --> 00:29:40.440

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think history seems to suggest that is the case.

00:29:41.060 --> 00:29:45.660

<v SPEAKER_2>And it was one of the reasons I think why he won the Nobel Prize.

00:29:45.960 --> 00:29:51.880

<v SPEAKER_2>But there was another part of it what made him so successful, I think Colin, and that was his ability.

00:29:52.540 --> 00:30:08.220

<v SPEAKER_2>He used to say, and this was not, I think he didn't invent the saying, he used many sayings, but they didn't, they weren't, or if he were his own invention, but the ones he liked to use, which was people say there's two sides to every story, but I actually see four or five sides to every story.

00:30:09.140 --> 00:30:45.420

<v SPEAKER_2>And as a diplomat, particularly in the multilateral milieu, and as you can appreciate Colin, where you have many voices with many perspectives and many different backgrounds, cultural or otherwise, that drive positions or points of view, my grandfather had a very, almost in some ways uncanny ability to hear all those voices and to not be so stuck on a position himself, whether as an ally or whatever it might be, that he was unable to be appreciative of and demonstrate that appreciation of those other positions.

00:30:46.420 --> 00:30:58.960

<v SPEAKER_2>And yet at the same time, be able to drive compromise and consensus around certain courses of action, which there's a common sense that some people will say a good idea, is not a good idea until you convince them it's a good idea.

00:31:01.500 --> 00:31:11.140

<v SPEAKER_2>And that is, I think, a variation of saying something else that Pearson liked to say, which is the art of diplomacy is

letting someone else have it your way.

00:31:11.660 --> 00:31:18.160

<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, and you kind of think, listen to that phrase carefully to understand exactly what it means.

00:31:18.160 --> 00:31:27.940

<v SPEAKER_2>But that was that that really described him well, is, is others thought solutions that were being found were things that reflected what they were concerned about.

00:31:29.040 --> 00:31:38.420

<v SPEAKER_2>But in from his perspective, we're getting to the right, you know, whether it was de-escalation or the end of a conflict situation.

00:31:38.420 --> 00:31:39.980

<v SPEAKER_2>Sue has a good example of that.

00:31:41.340 --> 00:31:52.200

<v SPEAKER_2>And others, you know, and being able to adopt some of the other ideas and other points of view and see others seeing that he listened to them and therefore might actually respond to him.

00:31:52.620 --> 00:31:57.740

<v SPEAKER_2>And even in the solution he might come up with, which if it had been someone else coming up with that solution, they may have resisted it.

00:31:57.740 --> 00:32:05.860

<v SPEAKER_2>But because they appreciated who he was, and his ability to listen to their point of view, they were more willing to be accepting of the solution that he came up with.

00:32:06.700 --> 00:32:09.680

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think that was the ultimate diplomatic skill that he had.

00:32:09.940 --> 00:32:13.480

<v SPEAKER_2>And you saw that a little bit in politics too.

00:32:13.480 --> 00:32:14.320

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, I say in the book-

00:32:14.320 --> 00:32:17.780

<v SPEAKER_1>I was going to ask you, I mean, how do those skills translate and help as a politician?

00:32:17.780 --> 00:32:24.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Because you suggest to one point that it didn't always

work as well in politics as it did in diplomacy.

00:32:25.600 --> 00:32:38.180

<v SPEAKER_2>It doesn't, because I think domestic politics, some people might say international politics is exactly the same, but domestic politics can be very partisan, and it is more difficult.

00:32:38.180 --> 00:32:40.400

<v SPEAKER_2>And he was uncomfortable in-

00:32:40.680 --> 00:32:43.220

<v SPEAKER_2>he was not a natural politician.

00:32:43.220 --> 00:32:44.560

<v SPEAKER_2>His skill was diplomacy.

00:32:45.000 --> 00:32:48.400

<v SPEAKER_2>He applied that skill in politics, but he was not a comfortable politician.

00:32:48.400 --> 00:32:56.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Actually, what's interesting about him in saying that is his political skill, in a small venue, so he was a great-

00:32:56.800 --> 00:33:06.640

<v SPEAKER_2>I say that, as you know, in the book about his ability in small halls or meetings or one-on-one, everybody was appreciative of him.

00:33:06.640 --> 00:33:07.660

<v SPEAKER_2>Everyone really liked him.

00:33:07.660 --> 00:33:15.680

<v SPEAKER_2>But when he was in a big public venue or he was speaking on television, which was a big thing in the early 1960s, he did not come across well.

00:33:15.680 --> 00:33:16.420

<v SPEAKER_2>He was always-

00:33:17.380 --> 00:33:18.140

<v SPEAKER_2>he was not happy.

00:33:18.140 --> 00:33:19.880

<v SPEAKER_2>He was not comfortable in that kind of milieu.

00:33:19.880 --> 00:33:23.040

<v SPEAKER_2>So he came across a little bit.

00:33:23.680 --> 00:33:33.640

<v SPEAKER_2>He didn't have that dynamic that John Lievenbaker had, for example, and that the great polemicists all have of just the power of their voice can sway a crowd.

00:33:33.960 --> 00:33:35.280

<v SPEAKER_2>That was not Granddaddy's skill.

00:33:35.280 --> 00:33:37.380

<v SPEAKER_2>His skill was behind the scenes.

00:33:37.420 --> 00:33:42.300

<v SPEAKER_2>It was behind in smaller venues, in smaller sessions, with smaller groups, etc.

00:33:42.380 --> 00:33:46.200

<v SPEAKER_2>So it was in the bare pit of the House of Commons, that's harder to do.

00:33:46.720 --> 00:33:57.760

<v SPEAKER_2>I think he found it difficult to deal with a lot of slings and arrows that were in domestic politics, flung his way, and John Diefenbaker, probably the best personification of that.

00:33:57.760 --> 00:34:11.780

<v SPEAKER_2>But notwithstanding any of that, he still, and this is a remarkable thing, for someone who wasn't a natural politician, found that uncomfortable, he still accomplished some incredible things in a minority government situation, by the way.

00:34:12.080 --> 00:34:13.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Everyone talks about Mr.

00:34:13.680 --> 00:34:17.000

<v SPEAKER_2>Carney now with a majority and the things he can do with that, which is true.

00:34:17.240 --> 00:34:29.120

<v SPEAKER_2>But when you think about what Pearson was able to do in a minority government for five years, our whole Canadian national identity with our social programs, et cetera, that he put through in a minority parliament situation.

00:34:29.120 --> 00:34:40.300

<v SPEAKER_2>Everyone thinks about the flag, of course, but whether it's Medicare or CPP, or there are so many examples of that, is his ability to work with the provinces too.

00:34:41.660 --> 00:34:57.000

<v SPEAKER_2>His skill at managing the very dynamic differences, I should say, amongst various premiers, which is not a new thing, wasn't

new then, it isn't new now, obviously, but it is a, we're a very decentralized country, as you know, Colin, and it's not easy to govern.

00:34:57.640 --> 00:35:15.420

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think he had this ability to work his people relationships, back to his diplomatic skill, his ability to work with people and to understand people, and for people to understand and appreciate his approach to managing complex issues and listening to them, and thinking about their perspectives.

00:35:15.940 --> 00:35:21.900

<v SPEAKER_2>That was a real skill he had from diplomacy that he brought into politics, and that's what made him good at federal-provincial relations.

00:35:21.900 --> 00:35:30.040

<v SPEAKER_2>A lot of those national programs we talk about had to be agreed to by the provinces, whether it was in health or education, etc.

00:35:30.140 --> 00:35:40.880

<v SPEAKER_2>And probably not every prime minister would have been able to pull off the way he pulled it off to get that kind of consensus, even to allow, as was the case in the 60s, the Quebec have its own pension plan, for example.

00:35:42.080 --> 00:35:48.500

<v SPEAKER_2>These were things another prime minister may not, certainly Pierre Trudeau probably would not have been able to say, oh, we can make a concession to Quebec there.

00:35:49.200 --> 00:35:51.520

<v SPEAKER_2>My grandfather did not have that kind of concern.

00:35:51.800 --> 00:35:59.900

<v SPEAKER_2>He saw that those kinds of things actually led to outcomes which were better for everybody, not just for Quebec's interests.

00:35:59.900 --> 00:36:06.680

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think that was a diplomatic skill, that was really the core of what made him successful as a politician.

00:36:06.720 --> 00:36:16.040

<v SPEAKER_1>You make the point that one said that he really understood that this country was based on diversity and that was also at saving grace, but we had to recognize that to make it strong.

00:36:16.040 --> 00:36:20.700

<v SPEAKER_1>And I think that's exactly right, which leads into my penultimate question.

00:36:20.700 --> 00:36:28.060

<v SPEAKER_1>My last question is always what you're reading, but my final question is going to be, Mark Carney comes up to you and said, all right, you've studied this period.

00:36:28.460 --> 00:36:36.860

<v SPEAKER_1>What did you learn that can help me with these who's got a very bold agenda, as you point out, both domestically and in the conduct of foreign affairs?

00:36:37.080 --> 00:36:46.720

<v SPEAKER_1>How are you going to reply first on the sort of domestic side and then on the foreign affairs side based on what you've accumulated an awful lot of learning in putting this book together?

00:36:47.520 --> 00:36:50.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think on the domestic side, Mr.

00:36:50.280 --> 00:36:53.600

<v SPEAKER_2>Carney has drawn lessons very well so far.

00:36:53.900 --> 00:37:08.480

<v SPEAKER_2>Some people would obviously disagree with, for example, how he's managing the relationship with Alberta and what kind of commentary that has with respect to his commitment, or is it as strong as it needs to be on climate change, for example.

00:37:09.400 --> 00:37:26.780

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think Carney has already demonstrated a little bit the reality of how you have to work with provinces in a very creative way in order to advance national unity, advance national projects and national actions that can be bought into by people around the country who have very different perspectives and points of view.

00:37:26.820 --> 00:37:28.800

<v SPEAKER_2>I think he's shown that already.

00:37:29.300 --> 00:37:33.060

<v SPEAKER_2>On the international side, I think the jury is still out, frankly.

00:37:33.060 --> 00:37:38.820

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, everyone talks about Davos and that was a very important kind of speech.

00:37:38.940 --> 00:37:39.300

<v SPEAKER_2>Mr.

00:37:39.300 --> 00:37:58.500

<v SPEAKER_2>Pearson, my grandfather, said something similar in 1948, more focused on the US, but they basically saying, we cannot just assume that the US is going to be always on our side or always doing the right thing, and we got to be more open to looking at other ways of persuading our American friends to do things that we think are the right way of doing it.

00:37:59.160 --> 00:38:07.320

<v SPEAKER_2>So, I think that there is a similarity there, but it comes down to something you said earlier, which is about hard power assets.

00:38:08.360 --> 00:38:10.220

<v SPEAKER_2>To that extent, was Mr.

00:38:10.220 --> 00:38:11.620

<v SPEAKER_2>Carney's decision, is Mr.

00:38:11.620 --> 00:38:27.320

<v SPEAKER_2>Carney's decision to devote significantly higher amount of monies to defence something that was driven by his recognition that those hard power assets, and they take time to gather, by the way, will make a difference in our ability to influence international affairs.

00:38:28.600 --> 00:38:43.100

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm not saying they didn't think that it was the main motivation, but some might say while the motivation had as much to do with the pressure coming from out, which preceded him about Canada needing to step up more when it came to defence spending and so on.

00:38:43.100 --> 00:38:47.680

<v SPEAKER_2>So the real question for me will be, what do you do with that?

00:38:47.760 --> 00:38:52.220

<v SPEAKER_2>When you gather more of those assets and you have more of that capacity, what are you going to do with it?

00:38:52.220 --> 00:38:54.120

<v SPEAKER_2>How are you going to make a difference internationally?

00:38:54.180 --> 00:38:57.000

<v SPEAKER_2>We will never have the biggest army, air force, navy, etc.

00:38:57.120 --> 00:39:06.840

<v SPEAKER_2>We're never going to be the biggest player, but we can be

a consequential player if we use certain assets in certain ways that can clearly see how Canada can make a difference.

00:39:06.920 --> 00:39:11.540

<v SPEAKER_2>By the way, people talk about defence and the amount of money and importance that that is, and I agree.

00:39:11.540 --> 00:39:22.720

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think, and you can appreciate this, Colin, and I know a number of listeners will appreciate this too, soft power assets, diplomatic assets to use that, or whether it's development assistance.

00:39:22.720 --> 00:39:35.680

<v SPEAKER_2>But I would say diplomatic assets, particular people, having Canadians out there, diplomat, doesn't have to be just diplomats, by the way, government people who are out there helping to make a difference and being influential is just as important in my view.

00:39:35.860 --> 00:39:37.200

<v SPEAKER_2>These things have to go together.

00:39:38.460 --> 00:39:53.720

<v SPEAKER_2>You cannot have a great military but not have the kind of diplomatic assets out in the field that can allow you in those conversations that need to take place that then support, essentially support hard assets, like the use of hard assets, like military power.

00:39:54.140 --> 00:39:55.860

<v SPEAKER_2>And here the jury is still out.

00:39:55.860 --> 00:40:08.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Foreign Affairs has always been the case, you know this as well as I do, always gets cut and you can argue as much as you want when some of that's fair about we don't do a good enough job, people at Foreign Affairs to promote the cause.

00:40:08.780 --> 00:40:26.820

<v SPEAKER_2>Maybe that's an issue but on the other hand, to be, I think, for Canada to be influential internationally, we have to have a very smart and credible and with enough size diplomatic corps to promote that and to advance our interests.

00:40:27.560 --> 00:40:28.960

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't yet see Mr.

00:40:28.960 --> 00:40:30.600

<v SPEAKER_2>Carney landing on that issue.

00:40:30.600 --> 00:40:35.500

<v SPEAKER_2>I haven't heard him say things about that yet or take actions which would reflect that.

00:40:35.500 --> 00:40:39.680

<v SPEAKER_2>So I got time, he's got his majority government now so there's time.

00:40:40.280 --> 00:40:43.860

<v SPEAKER_2>But that would be what I would look for if we want to be serious internationally.

00:40:45.120 --> 00:40:47.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Michael, very good advice, very personian.

00:40:47.500 --> 00:40:51.880

<v SPEAKER_1>My last question, what are you reading or streaming these days now that you've got the book done?

00:40:52.460 --> 00:40:52.940

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:40:53.800 --> 00:40:56.780

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, you mentioned John Delacourt's book, The Innocent Canadian.

00:40:57.660 --> 00:41:00.920

<v SPEAKER_2>What a happy coincidence that was to do a book launch with him.

00:41:01.280 --> 00:41:07.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Because as you know, one of my chapters is specifically on that time period in London during World War II.

00:41:08.260 --> 00:41:17.300

<v SPEAKER_2>Letters which again had never been seen before between my grandfather and my grandfather in particular, about what it was like to live under the Blitz during that time.

00:41:17.300 --> 00:41:35.400

<v SPEAKER_2>So for John to have written a book on exactly the same time period and with some of the same characters, although not the names obviously, since his book is considered fiction, but Charles Ritchie and Charles Ritchie's diaries and his relationship with Elizabeth Bowen, that was all real and that was, it was kind of neat to see that connection.

00:41:35.400 --> 00:41:46.900

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm just reading his book now as a result to kind of see how those things connect together, one a real history, one a piece of

fiction, but based on real history.

00:41:46.900 --> 00:41:48.760

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's kind of neat.

00:41:50.000 --> 00:41:56.360

<v SPEAKER_2>I like reading historical fiction more generally, but I usually go back to the Roman times as my favorite.

00:41:56.360 --> 00:42:00.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's nice to read something that's a little bit more contemporary, I suppose, in that sense, still historical, but contemporary.

00:42:01.400 --> 00:42:06.440

<v SPEAKER_2>On the streaming side, there are so many murder mysteries out there.

00:42:06.920 --> 00:42:10.840

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, if you have a subscription to Brit Box, it seems like the only thing it does is murder mysteries.

00:42:12.060 --> 00:42:22.480

<v SPEAKER_2>But, and some of them are great, if you like the slow pace of their approach, but the one that we've been finding in our family really fun is actually comes from New Zealand.

00:42:22.500 --> 00:42:24.720

<v SPEAKER_2>It's called the Brokenwood Mysteries.

00:42:25.340 --> 00:42:37.380

<v SPEAKER_2>The Brokenwood Mysteries, it's these three police, one, you know, two men and a woman who are part of a small town in New Zealand who solve crimes, you know, with each episode.

00:42:37.380 --> 00:42:39.660

<v SPEAKER_2>It's like Brit Box that way, each episode an hour and a half.

00:42:40.480 --> 00:42:45.200

<v SPEAKER_2>But you know what's really the best murder mysteries in my ones are these procedurals, whatever you would call them.

00:42:45.340 --> 00:42:49.840

<v SPEAKER_2>The best ones are the ones that inject all kinds of humor into what is a dark subject.

00:42:50.780 --> 00:42:56.280

<v SPEAKER_2>Brokenwood is probably first in class in my perspective when it comes to that.

00:42:56.280 --> 00:43:00.440

<v SPEAKER_2>You want to laugh as well as be taken by the seriousness of the subject matter.

00:43:00.860 --> 00:43:02.600

<v SPEAKER_2>And Brokenwood does that very well.

00:43:02.880 --> 00:43:03.300

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:43:03.300 --> 00:43:06.000

<v SPEAKER_1>Brokenwood and The Innocent Canadian, John Delacourt.

00:43:06.100 --> 00:43:13.580

<v SPEAKER_1>But most importantly, read Private Letters, Public Matters, Family Correspondence of Lester B Pearson by Michael Pearson.

00:43:14.080 --> 00:43:15.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you, Michael.

00:43:15.020 --> 00:43:17.980

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:43:18.440 --> 00:43:30.320

<v SPEAKER_1>As I say, we were joined today by Michael Pearson and we were discussing his book, and again, I'll repeat it, Private Letters, Public Matters, The Family Correspondence of Lester B Pearson, and we'll link to the website in our program notes.

00:43:30.740 --> 00:43:39.920

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00:43:40.240 --> 00:43:43.860

<v SPEAKER_1>The Global Exchange is brought to you by our team at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:43:44.040 --> 00:43:49.060

<v SPEAKER_1>My thanks as always to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:43:49.440 --> 00:43:50.620

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:43:50.900 --> 00:43:52.920

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.