

*Visit of President Eisenhower*

the hopes of anxious peoples that, through collective action, international peace may be secured and maintained.

The characteristically energetic manner in which the United States has fulfilled the responsibilities it has voluntarily assumed has been interpreted by a few detractors as an indication that your country is seeking to impose its policies on or dominate the life of other free nations.

We Canadians are in the best position to know how false are such suspicions. Although your population and your economic and military strength are many times greater than ours, we have no fear that this strength will be used to threaten or overawe us. We are the more secure because you are a good as well as a strong neighbour. No guns have been fired in anger across our borders for almost a century and a half. The only invasions from the south are of the annual friendly variety when millions of your compatriots travel north to share in the enjoyment of our great natural recreational facilities and perhaps to feel the pulse of our growth. Canadians in their turn retaliate by moving in large numbers to experience the entertainment and cultural advantages of your great cities and to bask in the sun of your semi-tropical southlands.

Of course, there are many strong American influences on Canadian life, but these have not prevented the growth of a distinct Canadian feeling and culture, which flourishes and will continue to develop alongside the influences of your dynamic society. This is as it should be, for our own history teaches us that co-operation can be closer when differences are recognized. Likewise, the co-operation between our two countries is deep and close because it is free and desired, not something imposed upon a reluctant people by a powerful neighbour.

We in Canada also feel, Mr. President, that the powerful influence which your nation exerts in the world community is, in action as well as in aim, an influence for good, and we welcome it.

Together, the United States and Canada prove to the world that a great power and a lesser power can work in harmony without the smaller being submerged by his bigger neighbour. We Canadians know that in the interests of our mutual defence we can wisely and safely pool many of our military resources with yours in a security system which is genuinely collective. We know, too, that through the instruments of diplomacy and through direct negotiation we can solve amicably and justly the many problems which arise along our lengthy common border. Sometimes we may wish they could be solved

more rapidly, but we know they can be solved in the end. And we also know that when the Canadian view on any matter is different from the American view, our opinions will be listened to with patience and respect.

That our two nations get along so well is due in no small part to the leaders whom the American people, in their wisdom, have chosen. It is particularly gratifying to Canadians to see in you, Mr. President, the Supreme Commander of the second world war, under whose inspiring leadership the fighting men and women of Canada made their contribution to victory, and to see in you also the first Supreme Commander in Europe of the North Atlantic alliance. In that capacity you received into your command the Canadian brigade group in Germany and laid the plans for the Canadian air division which is now in Europe.

As a supreme commander in war and in peace, and as the political head of your nation, you have justly earned a reputation for fairmindedness and friendliness, sincerity and integrity. Those are noble qualities. They no doubt are the qualities which inspired the editorial writer of one of our leading newspapers on learning of your visit to this country to say:

The President of the United States will be welcome to Canada, welcome not only as head of a great world power but as a man we have already met and liked, admired and respected.

*(Translation):*

Mr. President, in this country and in this house where there are two official languages, I wish also to tell you in the language of my French ancestors that all my fellow citizens of the same origin as mine are just as happy as our English-speaking Canadians to have this opportunity of wishing you and Mrs. Eisenhower the heartiest welcome and to assure you of our highest consideration.

*(Text):*

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States of America.

**Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower (President of the United States of America):** Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the Canadian Houses of Parliament, distinguished guests and friends:

*(Translation):*

I also extend greetings to my French-speaking Canadian friends. I know that I am very foolhardy in even trying to express myself in this tongue. Therefore, I crave your indulgence for all the mistakes which I may make in personally and directly expressing to you my feelings of friendship and of high esteem.