



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA

Address to the Rotary Club of New Delhi, April 18, 1957,  
by Mr. ESCOTT REID, High Commissioner for Canada in India.

I find it hard to believe that in only two weeks time I shall be leaving Delhi. In the last four and a half years, I have struck my roots deep in the friendly soil of this city. It is going to be a painful wrench for me to have to uproot myself, to say good-bye to the places I love in Delhi and to my friends here.

Delhi is so ancient and so honourable a city that it would be presumptuous for one who has lived here for so short a time to claim to be a real citizen of Delhi. But may I ask this assembly of distinguished citizens of Delhi for permission to bestow on myself the title, "demi-Dilliwallah".

I have read in Spear's fascinating book on late Mughul Delhi that Delhi in the days of Aurangzeb was reported to have had two million inhabitants, that "it was the largest and most renowned city, not only in India, but of all the East from Constantinople to Canton". Then came Delhi's tragic days. First the sack by Nadir Shah. Then the other sacks and atrocities and civil wars. Finally, the Rebellion of 1857 and its suppression. By 1858 the once great and imperial city of Delhi had shrunk to a town of 50,000

The history of the world is replete with cities which were once great and imperial like Delhi, and then like Delhi declined to nothing, or almost nothing. But there are only a few great and imperial cities which, having once declined to almost nothing, have risen from their ashes to greatness once again.

Delhi is such a city. It is today a city of about two millions, as it was two hundred and fifty years ago. It is once again a city of political renown. And Delhi's renaissance is just beginning.

I am excited when I read of the possibilities which lie before this city. I do not mean the possibilities of further great growth in population. Cities can grow much too big. I mean the proposals to preserve what is lovely and good in Delhi and to