

The fourth country visited was Indonesia, the giant of Southeast Asia, which Canada has recently named as a country of concentration for our aid program and one of whose outstanding citizens, General Nasution, will soon come to Canada as your guest, Mr. Speaker.

In each of those countries the program provided for discussions with the prime minister or president and between Canadian officials and their counterparts. These face-to-face encounters, and that with the Shah of Iran during an overnight stop in his country, provided an opportunity to learn at first hand of the attitudes and beliefs of world leaders in a way which cannot otherwise adequately be duplicated.

A refuelling stop at Lahr permitted me to meet a good number of our servicemen, their wives and children.

Wherever I went, I am happy and proud to report that the name of Canada was held in warm and sincere respect. The professional dedication of Canadian representatives abroad, be they in the public service or the armed forces, serving in our diplomatic missions or in United Nations or NATO assignments, the quality of our aid programs, the value of our trade and investment relations, the friendly and positive nature of our external policies within and without the United Nations -- these have all accumulated for Canada over the years an enviable reputation. I am happy to report that the resourcefulness and skills of the members of my official party and of the Canadian Armed Forces crew who were responsible for our transportation contributed not only to the effectiveness of my trip but to Canada's good name wherever we went. To them I am grateful and offer my thanks.

I have no doubt that all Canadians will agree that this high national reputation places upon our fortunate country a special obligation to conduct our affairs both internally and externally in a manner in keeping with the desire of all men to live in a world which contributes to human dignity, justice and social progress. To this end, all Canadians must dedicate themselves consciously in order to be rid of racial or regional or linguistic prejudices, for these are belittling to the world, to Canada, and to us as individuals.

In that respect, I should like to quote in conclusion three sentences from the closing remarks of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Chairman of the Singapore Conference. He said:

"In a multitude of ways, this conference has mirrored in miniature some of the irreconcilables the world community faces. They must be made less irreconcilable. It will become too costly and painful for mankind if these conflicts are not tempered by the spirit of common brotherhood."

Canada cannot live apart from the world. Events in far-off places do affect us, as we have seen again and again in our history. If we are able to influence those events for the better, through attendance at important international conferences, and through meetings with heads of friendly states, then it is the duty of Canada to attempt to do so. This duty does not flow from some vague international role to be played by Canada. Canada must act according to how it perceives its aims and interests. It is in our interest that there not be a general racial war in Africa in the near or distant future.