

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

NO. 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JANUARY 10, 1966.

STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
ON THE DEATH OF THE LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

I am deeply shocked by the news of the death of Prime Minister Shastri a few hours ago. His death is the more tragic because it comes just as he and the President of Pakistan had begun to get relations between their two countries on a new and more hopeful course. My colleagues in the Government and the Canadian people join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the Indian Government and people and to his family. We will long cherish our fond memories of his visit to Canada last June.

Since becoming Prime Minister of India in June 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri has earned not only the respect and affection of his own people, but the respect and affection of statesmen and people around the world. It was not an easy time to be Prime Minister of the world's most populous democracy and Prime Minister Shastri brought to his work humility, fortitude and courage. We in Canada mourn with India in this difficult hour when for a second time in less than two years her leading son has been taken from her.