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MR. ST. LAURENT'S TORONTO ADDRESS

should seize every opportunity that presents itself to strengthen the bonds of goodwill and mutual understanding with them. Canada has a special opportunity because, like these nations, we too have emerged from a colonial status to a status of equality in the Commonwealth, and that common experience is itself a basis for mutual understanding.

"My visit was certainly a rewarding one to me. I found traditions and achievements going back thousands of years which make our own history seem, by comparison, like a creation of yesterday. I was struck by the realization that the spiritual and philosophical insight, which has always been one of the glories of the East, is still a living reality.

"And side by side with this ancient cultural inheritance are the new forces which are beginning to stir Asia in this period of history. The most powerful of these is a national sentiment, and closely associated with it, the insistence on the recognition of racial equality. In every part of the East this double force is at work driving men in new directions. One feels that in every part of the East the desire for national independence goes hand in hand with a new sense of the dignity of the individual and the equality of all men, regardless of origin or colour.

"This feature of the Eastern scene is one which we in the West can neglect only at our peril. The Peoples of Asia, who have so recently thrown off what they consider the last vestiges of colonial domination, are determined to manage their own affairs without interference. And I am confirmed in the view that no long-term solution of Asian relations with the West will be possible which does not carry with it full recognition of the common human brotherhood of all men in all countries.

"The desire for a more distinct national identity and this new sense of the importance of the individual present a great challenge to the new Asian nations of our Commonwealth. One of the most important tasks with which they are faced at the present time is to assure an adequate supply of food, clothing, and shelter to meet the minimum basic needs of their many millions of human beings. It is by assisting them to meet this challenge, and at the same time encouraging them in their effort to achieve the goals I have mentioned, that we can demonstrate our friendship and goodwill toward them. Even before my recent tour, I had frequently asserted that we could not afford to overlook these vast areas of Asia, where mass poverty prevails and where there is not much use in talking about the abstract advantages of political freedom to men and women who are perpetually hungry.

"If we hope to have real security in the world - and unless it is world-wide we are not apt to have it for ourselves - I am convinced we must, in a true spirit of equality and co-

operation, join in a world-wide concerted effort to help the peoples of Asia to secure greater material advantages and the hope of a better future for themselves.

"The people of Southern Asia, like the people of Canada - and the average person is not much different the world over, he has the same hopes and aspirations - these people are engaged in a high enterprise of national development. To carry that enterprise to a successful conclusion they too need stability and peace in the world. I said a moment ago that Westerners were regarded with suspicion in Asia but that does not mean that the people there do not want peace and stability as much as we do and are not willing to work with us in achieving those ends, once we can convince them we are on the right road. But we cannot expect them to assume that our way is always the right way.

"The views of the governments and peoples in Southern Asia on the way they can most usefully help to maintain world peace are not all identical with the views of the government and people of Canada on the efforts which Canada can most usefully make.

"But we should not forget that until we signed the North Atlantic Treaty, we in North America had generally held the view that it was preferable not to make precise commitments in advance as to the action we would have to take if ever there was an outbreak of war. That was our traditional position until six or seven years ago. That seems to be India's position now. And I do not think we in Canada have any more right today to urge India to change its policy than we had in June, 1940, when the Western world was crashing about our ears, to urge the United States to change its policy. We hoped for a change and we expected that ultimately there would be a change, but we felt it would not help to try to tell the people of the United States that we knew better than they did what they should do in their own best interests.

"The countries I had the privilege of visiting are in the throes of what we hope will continue to be a peaceful revolution and they are, so far as I could gather, determined to make their revolution by democratic and peaceful means. The leaders of those countries are apt to succeed only if the masses of the people see with their own eyes that their economic and social conditions are improving and are likely to continue to improve.

"I have seen something of the poverty of an average Indian village. I walked through the muddy lanes of such a village and into the dark mud houses. I went on to visit a village nearby where a community project had been established and where the villagers, with government assistance, were working together to improve their living conditions and to increase their production. There was already clear evidence of great improvement.

"I began to realize what a stupendous un-