

Hon. Liaquat Ali Khan

what democracy really means. You know that a strong nation is one in which the several units are made responsible for national development, by being called upon to participate in the administration of public affairs.

Your industrial and social program is commensurate with your overflowing personality. You are extending in the economic sphere the reform accomplished in the political field. Without breaking your age-long traditions, you are leading your people to the development of natural resources, industry and world trade. Pakistan will thus be a democratic, industrial and prosperous country.

May we, Your Excellency, greet in you the great architect of this national revival and offer you a tribute of admiration and the expression of our best wishes.

(Text):

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald (Speaker of the House of Commons): Honourable members of the Senate and of the House of Commons: From time to time our parliament has been honoured by visits from internationally known statesmen. Once again this honour has come to us. Today we have had the privilege of receiving the Prime Minister of a new nation which has been formed by people of ancient lineage and great traditions. The history of our country is very short compared to that of the country of our distinguished visitor, but we are a few years older in the status of nationhood. We are both young nations. I am sure we were all very much pleased to hear our Prime Minister say that we are sister nations; and then,

shortly after, we were happy indeed to hear our distinguished visitor say that we belong to the same family circle.

Pakistan and Canada have many things in common. Allow me to mention but one. Both countries are bordered by powerful nations which speak the same or a similar language, and which have the same customs and traditions. Canada has lived in peace with her powerful neighbour for nearly 150 years. I am sure that I speak for all our members when I say that we hope our younger sister, Pakistan, will enjoy with her neighbour the same peaceful relations as her elder sister, Canada, has enjoyed with her neighbour.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, may I express to you our admiration for the statesmanship which has already been demonstrated by you in facing the problems which have confronted you. We are deeply impressed by the high morale of your people and their faith in the belief that their new status as a sovereign independent nation will gradually bring to them a better way of life.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, on behalf of the members of the Canadian House of Commons, I extend to you our deep appreciation for your very informative and inspiring address this afternoon. Our Prime Minister has asked you to convey a message to all your people. May I, as Speaker of the House of Commons, ask you upon your return to Pakistan to carry our greetings to your constituent assembly, and to tell your members how happy Canadians were today to have in their houses of parliament the Prime Minister of Pakistan.