

For us he has great respect and in our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), our Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) and the President of the United States he has great confidence, as he has in other political leaders in other parts of the world, and the existence of this confidence is a most important matter.

I saw Mr. Nehru for a few moments immediately upon his return from the United States and Canada; I saw him the next morning and later again that day. I found in him the same disposition to understand other points of view in a spirit of tolerance that I personally had experienced at the United Nations in my relations with spokesmen of India. It is not always possible to agree but it is essential, if constructive efforts are to be made, that there should exist a capacity to appreciate the reasons for certain attitudes and approaches. It is in this way that differences are composed and agreements are achieved.

I do not believe one can attach too great importance to the acceptance by political leaders of the good intentions of others and their appreciation of the factors involved in differing attitudes. Given conditions of this kind and an absence of vituperation in the conduct of one nation with another, I think it is possible to work out solutions that will result in a satisfactory disposition of the problems that divide mankind at this time.

I was not the only one travelling in Asia at this time. There were more important political personalities than myself, holding higher offices and representing greater power numerically and perhaps influentially. I could not hope to emulate some of the receptions accorded them or the influence which for the time being they may have sought to exercise. I spoke in one village to about 10,000 people one day where others only a week before spoke to several hundreds of thousands. We did not speak of the same things and I am sure that behind the things that were said there were different motivations and intentions.

I spoke of international friendship, of the importance of social and economic reconstruction and of improvements in health and living standards, of our belief in the value of the United Nations as an instrument for the discussion, and we trust ultimately the resolving, of some major world problems that divide us at this time. Behind my simple observations was based the pattern that comes from a belief in spiritual values, that comes from a belief in individual freedom as opposed to totalitarian power through which millions of people are caused to accept the dictates of a small group which constitutes itself as the government of the day. No one can tell whether my peregrinations will have the kind of effect which I in moments of deep sincerity would like to think possible. But I would say this, that as one man in the face of the situation attending that tremendously interesting and complicated continent, I did my best to put forward not only the point of view of the Government of Canada or of any political party but the point of view of all the people of Canada. In my discussions with members of governments of course, I could only speak for the Government of Canada. I would like to think I did put forward in those private talks, the results of which I hope will in the not too distant future become apparent, the point of view which we on this side believe to be the most desirable position to take.

I come back from this experience, Mr. Speaker, not as an expert but more humble than ever in the face of the great problems that stagger mankind in Asia today as they do elsewhere. I return confident in the belief that if we observe the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, if we employ the media of