

I stopped briefly in Italy for talks with Prime Minister Fanfani. The people of Italy have long been engaged in an internal battle against communist infiltration. Its success is vital to world peace. It is my impression that the battle is being won and that this great nation, to which the Western world owes so much of its heritage, will stand firm on the side of freedom.

After an all too short meeting with Prime Minister Manushar Eghbal of Iran, I went on to Pakistan, in which delightful country we met many Canadians engaged in the great hydro-electric project at Warsak. This is a tremendous undertaking and the fine spirit of co-operation between Canadians and Pakistanis here is doing much to develop a new and important relationship between Canada and this populous new nation. It is a relationship which must, in the long run, prove mutually advantageous to both our peoples.

In Pakistan, as in India which we visited next, I experienced at first hand the warm desire of all the Asian members of the Commonwealth for the quickest possible bridging of the gulf between the East and the West of the freedom nations. That it can and will be achieved I have not the slightest doubt, if we do our part. As a member of the Commonwealth, Canada has a significant role to play both in Asia and in Africa, where the vast majority of the members of the Commonwealth now live. The ties that bind are potentially strong. These new nations have joined us of their own free will and choice. They are extending to us the right hand of fellowship and it is my impression that, on both political and economic grounds, Canada is in a better position than any other Western nation to clasp these hands of friendship and so bring about an understanding between East and West.

The highlight of the Indian visit was, of course, our meetings with Prime Minister Nehru. I think he would allow me to say that our few days together developed an earlier acquaintanceship into a genuine friendship.

In Ceylon I met the national leaders in Colombo, the capital, well-known to all Canadians because of its connection with the Commonwealth Plan of aid to less-developed Asian countries. This new nation has many problems still to be solved, but I am able to report that Canadian assistance to this, as to other Colombo Plan countries, is already paying dividends in the kind of practical goodwill that will make Canadians and their products acceptable and welcome.

In Malaya, we saw at first hand the struggle of the little nations of Asia against communism being waged on a still active fighting front. This is one of the vital battlegrounds of the drive of international communism for the heart and minds of the Asians. Malaya seems a long way off to most of us, but I can assure you that the results of the struggle now going on in Malaya will affect the lives of Canadians for many years to come. It is a good thing for us of the West that, whatever our differences in other matters, we still have men like Prime Minister Tunku Rahman in many strategic places in the Asian world, who understand the terrible implications in a victory for communism.

The last of our talks took place in Australia and New Zealand, two Commonwealth countries with which Canada has many traditional