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CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE OF A RELIGIOUS JUBILEE

Speaking to a gathering of persons of Slovak origin in Toronto on June 29, on the occasion of the eleventh centennial of the arrival in Great Moravia of the missionary saints Cyril and Methodius, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, observed that "we must all be very conscious that many of the spiritual, social, cultural and legal values" the two saints had taught "are being suppressed today in favour of an atheist, materialist ideology". Mr. Martin continued as follows in part:

...Many of you are here today because you refused to yield to this materialism, because you cherished the traditional, spiritual and cultural values of Slovakia and were willing to make material sacrifices for them — sacrifices which in many cases involved the loss of family, position and fortune, and in all cases meant the loss of friends and homeland. The fact that you have had the strength of character to accept such sacrifices and to rise above the bitterness and anger is a source of great inspiration and a lesson in tolerance to all Canadians.

TOLERANCE

Throughout history, the quality of tolerance has been one of the essential ingredients of any free society. Tolerance is a fundamental prerequisite for freedom. It is also one of the fundamental sources of Canadian unity.

We recognize in Canada that we are fortunate in being able to base our national existence and our

development on diversity of race, culture and language. Tolerance is not merely a necessity, it is a source of national strength.

We have reached the stage in Canada where we can rise above differences of race, culture and creed. We recognize our fellow citizens as human beings with all their essential yearnings, aspirations and short-comings, and not merely as Catholics, Protestants and Jews or as a member of one or other special group.

Race hatred, religious bigotry and class disension, anything that questions the right of every citizen of walking in dignity before his God dishonours those guilty of it.

These things have no place in Canada.

CANADIAN RIGHTS

In 1960, when the Canadian Parliament was considering the Bill of Rights, we made certain that these ideals were expressed in the preamble. Let me quote it to you:

The Parliament of Canada, affirming that the Canadian nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person and the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions;

Affirming also that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and rule of law;

And being desirous of enshrining these principles and the human rights and fundamental freedoms derived from them, in a Bill of Rights which shall reflect the