



communiqué

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LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, released today the following text of a letter dated February 7, 1986 to the Director of the Norwegian Nobel Committee placing in nomination His Eminence Paul-Émile, Cardinal Léger, for the Nobel Peace Prize:

"Dear Mr. Sverdrup,

I have the honour and privilege, as a member of the Parliament of Canada and of the Government of Canada, to propose to the selection committee for the Nobel Peace Prize the candidacy of His Eminence Paul-Émile, Cardinal Léger.

Cardinal Léger has brought intelligence, zeal and vigour to his priestly vocation wherever his work has taken him. Born in 1904, he was ordained a priest in 1929. He worked in Japan as a parish priest from 1933 to 1939 and taught at the Sulpician Seminary he founded at Fukuoka in 1938. As Rector of the Pontifical Canadian College in Rome (1947-1950), he helped to alleviate the misery and poverty in which the Roman population lived in the post-war years; his appeal to Canadians for money, clothes and food resulted in 4000 cases of food and clothing being delivered to the neediest families in Rome.

After his appointment as Archbishop of Montreal in 1950 he won the affection of a city undergoing rapid social change and he encouraged widespread participation in the projects he founded, Le Foyer de Charité, a refuge for the city's poor and abandoned, and the Hôpital-Charles-Borromée for the chronically ill.

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