

While we are already closely bound in the political, commercial and cultural spheres, we trust that this co-operation between our two countries, in facing current problems, will continue to grow in the future. Your visit, I am sure, reflects your country's determination to persevere in this course.

Mr. President, please convey our best wishes to the German people as well as to the members of the Government and of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany. Tell them, particularly, on our behalf, that our most sincere wish is that they may, very soon, with the help of the other free nations, raise the iron curtain which now divides them and prevents them from uniting freely.

Hoping that your visit to Canada will be enjoyable to you all, we wish you a pleasant journey home and many more years of fruitful life.

(Text):

Hon. Roland Michener (Speaker of the House of Commons): Mr. Bundes President: On behalf of the House of Commons and the Canadian people whom we are representing, although not exclusively I should say in the presence of so many senators, may I express to Your Excellency our lively appreciation of the honour which you do us by your visit. You will appreciate from this second address of thanks that we are a bilingual country of English and French origins. After these two basic groups the third largest element in our population is of German descent. Many of these are third and fourth generation Canadians and some, such as those who founded Lunenburg, already mentioned, have a much deeper Canadian background.

As you have discovered on your recent visit to Toronto, this ethnic bond between our countries has been strengthened in the last ten years by an influx of many thousands of your countrymen. These latter, and to a lesser extent the descendants of the earlier German settlers, will appreciate your message in the words in which it was spoken; but all Canadians will welcome, in translation, the friendly message of greetings which you have brought us from the Federal Republic of Germany.

What you have said is not only welcome but important. Our future, as well as the peace and progress of much of mankind, will be affected in no small degree by the course which is taken by the German people, with their great capacities for work, invention and the arts of peace and war.

The world has shrunk since the first German immigrants came here in sailing ships. With modern transport you have had a quicker and, we trust, a more comfortable passage. Nevertheless from Bonn to Ottawa is still a long journey to be undertaken by one of your high position and responsibilities. On that account we are the more grateful to you for having come.

By your presence you have not only imparted to your message the integrity and purpose which have been exemplified in your illustrious career, but you have given us the opportunity of closer acquaintance with one of the great men of modern Europe.

We wish you happiness in your visit and a safe return to Bonn. Will you take home with you the thanks and cordial greetings of the House of Commons of Canada.

I conclude with words which most Canadians will understand and which all would wish to apply to your visit: Danke schön und auf Wiedersehen.