

ment. Such disarmament calls for far greater courage and conviction than is now in evidence. We cannot ignore the acceleration of military preparations. The arming of small nations by big powers, which was once in pursuit of cold war compulsions, continues in the name of maintaining regional balances. It is a fallacy to believe that the induction of arms from outside could promote stability, for this invariably encourages those militaristic elements who have little use for democratic and peaceful solutions. This is why we protest against continued arms aid to countries in our neighbourhood and regard it with grave concern.

The only safeguard against big power hegemony is for the smaller nations to stand together and help one another on as wide a scale as possible. Countries like Canada and India which have no territorial ambitions, no economic empires to protect and no ideologies to export, can take a less self-regarding and more farseeing view of international affairs.

[Translation]

Once again, I thank you for the honour you have paid me. We have, in India, a deep feeling of sympathy, I might even say, of affection for Canada. The Canadian Constitution and Canadian parliamentary usage have given us a valuable insight into the true spirit of democracy. I hope the brotherly feelings that exist between our two countries and our two Parliaments will only grow in the future. We will extend a warm welcome indeed to the Canadian parliamentary delegation that will do us the pleasure of visiting India in the near future. I trust that my own visit here will help, ever so modestly, to strengthen our co-operation in the service of causes that are dear to our two countries.

[English]

I end with a verse from the Atharva Veda:

Let there be no fear from friend, no fear from foe;
no fear from the known, no fear from what lies before
us unknown;

Let there be no fear for us from night, no fear from day;
Let all the quarters be my friends.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons): I now call on Madam Speaker Fergusson.

Hon. Muriel McQueen Fergusson (Speaker of the Senate): Madam Prime Minister, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, Your Excellencies, Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Commons, Ladies and Gentlemen: On behalf of the Senate of Canada I welcome the opportunity and the honour to thank our most distinguished guest.

Madam Prime Minister, your address this morning was both inspiring and thought-provoking and gave us a great deal of information we did not have before. This really did not surprise us because we know you to be a woman of character and unusual determination, a person who has proved she can stand alone and face whatever comes her way.

Your visit has served to remind us that India is one of the largest composite countries in the world, constituting as it does some 500 million people of many faiths, many languages and many races. As I believe you have often said, India is an old country, a new country, a fast develop-

ing country, a country where many centuries are telescoped into one.

The world has produced many wonderful people, people who have accomplished much and won great prominence, but very few of them have possessed the integrity, the wisdom, the sense of dedication to the service of their country and the determination to pursue these objectives to a conclusion as you, our honoured guest, have shown.

We are conscious of the fact that you wield greater power than any other woman in recent history and we are confident that you, as your illustrious father did, will use this power to improve the lot of your people and strengthen the bonds of friendship throughout the world.

[Translation]

Madam Prime Minister, we trust your visit to Canada will draw our two countries even closer.

[English]

Someone has said:

The role of women in a community is a most important one and no nation can afford to ignore it. Women are as vital to a nation's progress as its minerals, its rivers and its agriculture. Harnessed and properly controlled but treated with respect they present a great and powerful force which can be used for the benefit and progress of the nation.

I am in full accord with the first part of this quotation. I also believe that women can be a great and powerful force for the benefit and progress of a nation, as Mrs. Gandhi has proved, but I have some reservations, as I am sure Madam Prime Minister has, about the need for women to be "harnessed" and "controlled".

When you return home, Madam Prime Minister, my colleagues ask you to convey to the members of your government their most sincere good wishes. For yourself, we wish you well in carrying on what many people consider the most onerous and burdensome task in the world today, that of responsible leadership of a great country.

We wish you to know that as the daughter of Prime Minister Nehru, with whom you visited Canada in October, 1949, when he spoke to a joint meeting of our Parliament, you have a very special place in Canadian hearts, and we thank you for coming.

[Translation]

Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons): May I be allowed to add a few words only to the eloquent remarks the Honourable Senator Fergusson has just made. I speak for each and everyone of my colleagues in the House of Commons when I say to you, Madam, that it is both a pleasure and an honour for us to have you here this morning. Madam Prime Minister, the message of friendship you have conveyed to us on behalf of your Parliament and your people has been heard by each of my colleagues with understanding and sympathy. From the bottom of my heart, Madam, and on behalf of all hon. members of this House, I thank you most sincerely.

[English]

It is our hope, Madam Prime Minister, that upon your return home you will convey the assurance of our friend-