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PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA ADDRESSES CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

A highlight of the busy programme during the first visit to Canada of President Sukarno of Indonesia was his address to both houses of the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa. The above photo was taken in the House of Commons during President Sukarno's address.

With us it was different. My nation still had almost one hundred years of colonialism to undergo after the Canadian people had assumed the mantle of nationhood. Our independence did not come smoothly, but it came eventually as a result of war, of enemy occupation, of revolution, and most important, of a national struggle lasting decades. But now that great struggle is partly over. The Republic of Indonesia has joined the family of nations and seeks to play a full part in the joint tasks and joint responsibilities of that family.

Standing before the members of this parliament and before you, my thoughts inevitably fly to the far-flung homes of the Canadian people who have chosen you as their representatives and who have handed to you the responsibilities of government. I would like to convey to those people, spread over this vast country, the most sincere greetings from myself, from members of my party, and from the Indonesian people. Further, I wish to convey to you the most grateful and heartfelt thanks of the Indonesian people for your assistance in the past, and our hope that this visit will lead to even closer relations in the future. It would not be surprising if even closer relations should develop between neighbours, even though they are separated by the thousands of miles' expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to say a few words to the French-Canadian members,—permettez-moi de m'adresser aux membres canadiens-français. Je me sens vraiment privilégié en tant que premier citoyen de mon pays de vous transmettre avant tout les vœux les plus sincères et cordiaux du peuple indonésien