



Advance Text of Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to be delivered on the occasion of the Eleventh Centennial of the Arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia (Royal York Hotel, Toronto, June 29, 1963).

FOR RELEASE AT 8:00 P.M., EDT.
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1963.

I am happy and honoured to be with you this evening as you commemorate the Eleventh Centennial of the Arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia. I want to congratulate you most sincerely for the magnificent demonstration of faith which has been so evident throughout your Jubilee programme this weekend. It has been a fine Jubilee and a source of real inspiration to all who have participated.

I have come here to pay tribute to the many peoples of Slovakia and of Eastern Europe now living in Canada. By your spirit, your culture and your character, you are giving much to Canada. We are proud to count you among our citizens, because you are making a great contribution to our national life.

Situated in the very heart of Europe, the Slovak lands have figured prominently in history for many centuries. It was in 863 A.D., eleven hundred years ago, that two distinguished sons of a noble family of Thessaly, Cyril and Methodius, arrived in Great Moravia -- the kingdom of the Slovaks, Moravians and Slovenes. -- to establish a missionary church.

With the support and protection of the church as a whole, the first missionary church was destined to bring all of the Slovak peoples to Christianity and to provide the Slovak people with an alphabet, a written language and a body of translations and literature.