

I cannot just explain it or express it, but, though I have travelled a good many miles since I left Ottawa two weeks ago, I do not feel very far from Ottawa when I am in your midst. That may be because we have had such cordial and friendly relations with all those people from Pakistan it has been our privilege to meet in Canada, and particularly because of the three years of very friendly, intimate relations we all had with Mr. Mohammad Ali when he was High Commissioner in Canada. Mr. Mohammad Ali, Begum Mohammad Ali and the two boys were just part of the people, the group of people whom we were meeting daily, and we were delighted to find that they had enjoyed their period of life among us, and we all got the impression that we would enjoy contacts with people like that. We were firmly convinced that they were truly representative of the vast majority of the people of Pakistan.

I have been in public office for about twelve years now and nothing has met with so unanimous approval among the people of Canada as the announcement I made after the last General Election that I was going to try to visit before the year was out, the people of the East, these great Asian nations that are now part of the Commonwealth, and which give the Commonwealth another aspect. It is really, we think, a free association of people of several continents without distinction as to race, or colour or creed, all of them anxious to behave as reasonable human beings and to have the kind of relations with other human beings that make life enjoyable, and make it possible for us to devote time and attention and resources to the betterment and better distribution of the good things of life. This is the sort of relations which exist between us and these Commonwealth countries - there are no bonds, no ties - we are co-operating because we like to and because we think it suits our own purpose. We are not bound by anything but our own conceptions of what we think is good human behaviour.

It took us in Canada, you know, quite a long time to arrive at the place where we are now, completely autonomous. We have had the control of our domestic affairs for a long time, but it is only in the last couple of decades that we have really interested ourselves in relations with the other nations of the world. Of course we have been growing, though we are not very large yet. We feel that our situation not only entitles us but makes it our duty to have some concern with world affairs. We find that Commonwealth countries which have very similar institutions, those of the one very similar to the other, and all derived originally from the long practice of parliamentary institutions in the United Kingdom, have much in common. We like that way of organizing our sovereignty, that way of having all our citizens feel that they have a part in the exercise of the national sovereignty.

I have been Prime Minister now for something over five years and, as you know, the Government remains the Government only as long as it has the support of the majority of the members elected to the House of Commons. We have had that support, but we have had that support only because we have been able to do the things that the majority elected to the House of Commons felt were acceptable to the general public. If they were to turn