

The congress continued for five days, discussing the major issues affecting the people of the country and the structures and development of the party. It received a message from His Imperial Majesty and heard an excellent policy speech by the Prime Minister, Mr. Amir Abbas Hoveyda.

The address by Dr. Kalali, Secretary-General of the party, was particularly interesting to me, because it called upon the membership of the party to act as a vehicle for the development of political understanding among the people and their participation in the decision-making processes of government. I commented to Dr. Kalali that his speech was very much like the speech I made to the Liberal party of Canada in November, 1970. It was interesting to note that we were both calling upon our people for the same kind of interest and participation in political affairs. He was doing so because the citizens of his country had had no experience with democracy, and must learn about their responsibilities in such a system. On the other hand, my concern is that the citizens of Canada have had such a long experience with democracy that they have become apathetic and have come to believe that democracy will be with them always, regardless of their acceptance of the responsibilities of democratic citizenship.

The foreign observers, who included representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Italy, the United Arab Republic, Turkey, Yugoslavia, India, and many others, each had the opportunity of addressing the Congress to make their comments and convey their countries' greetings. I had the pleasure of doing so on behalf of Canada, and I must say that both my wife and I were surprised and gratified at the warmth with which the greetings from Canada were received. No other country received a more resounding welcome, and I began to realize the tremendous extent to which the relationship and the common interests of Canada and Iran have developed over the past few years.

The Government in Iran is based upon a constitution adopted in 1906; it provides for a "Majlis" or House of Commons approximately the same size as our own. It also provides for a Senate. There are 60 senators, 30 of whom are appointed by the Shah and 30 of whom are elected. The qualifications for being appointed to the Senate or being a candidate for the Senate are very high. One must be over 40 years of age and must have been a prime minister, minister or deputy minister, or must have held a full professorship in a university for at least fifteen years. The Government Leader in the Senate is Mohammad-Ali Safari, an outstanding representative of the Iranian people.

The executive power lies with the Shah, who appoints the prime minister on the consent of both houses. The members of the cabinet may not be members of either house but are responsible to both houses.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, may I ask Senator Stanbury a question? He says that the members of the cabinet are not members of either house, but they are responsible to the two houses. What does he mean exactly by that? When we say that the Government here

is responsible to the House of Commons, we mean by that that the House of Commons can determine the tenure of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Stanbury: As I understand it, the situation there is that they are so described in the constitution as being responsible to the two houses, and they may be called before the houses for an explanation of their policies.

We had the opportunity to meet and talk extensively with all of the senior members of the government. My wife was presented to Her Imperial Majesty Farah Pahlavi, Empress of Iran, and I was given the great honour of being presented to His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shahanshah of Iran. I was able to present to His Imperial Majesty the personal greetings of our Prime Minister, who has received the unusual courtesy of a warm reply from His Imperial Majesty.

The Shah spoke to us for nearly three-quarters of an hour about his hopes and aspirations for the people of Iran. He invited questions and comments, and received them from many of the foreign observers. One could not help but be impressed with his beautiful command of both English and French, his gentility, his ability, and his sincerity. He appreciates that what he is trying to do is to develop a revolution from the top, and he is most concerned as to whether he and his colleagues in government and in the political parties can persuade the people of the desirability and, indeed, the necessity for democratic reforms. He is unrelenting in his pressure upon the leaders of the government and the political parties to work with the people and educate them in the ways of democracy in such a way as to assure the success of his objective of concluding his reign with the advent of a completely democratic political system.

The Prime Minister entertained the foreign observers at his residence for lunch. He talked about the evening when he and the Shah entertained Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada and his party as they were returning from the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore. They were delighted with the personal contact, and were intrigued by the fact that it was in the following week that the Prime Minister was married. The Shah remarked to me that Mr. Trudeau did not tell them about his impending marriage. I replied that he did not tell us either. The Prime Minister of Iran, Mr. Hoveyda, claims to be the first prime minister to be married in office. He feels that he and Mr. Trudeau should form a club of confirmed bachelors who have seen the light.

The Prime Minister was most gracious to us. He drew to my attention the help that Canada is giving Iran in developing the forests in the foothills of the Elburz mountains bordering the Caspian Sea; the credit of \$100 million that Canada has given Iran to assist in developing a sophisticated communications network; the common faith Iran and Canada place in the United Nations to solve the problems of conflict in the Middle East; the pleasure which Iran has taken in the strong position Canada has assumed with respect to oil pollution in the Arctic and on its coasts; and the general affinity which

[Hon. Mr. Stanbury.]