

the special concern of the mission, and mentioning matters in which the Department of External Affairs has a particular interest.

2. The main purposes which the Canadian mission in India may be expected to serve appear to be:

(1) Maintaining and strengthening friendly relations between the Government and people of Canada and the Government and people of India;

(2) Fostering advantageous economic relations between the two countries;

(3) Transmitting to the Canadian Government information on India's internal political, social, and economic problems, and, when desirable, informing the Indian Government and people of Canadian political, social, and economic problems;

(4) Exchange of information and views on problems of external relations which may be of common concern.

3. It may be helpful, as a preliminary step, to outline for your consideration, in very general terms, certain aspects of the Indian situation as seen from here, and some features of Canadian experience which might prove interesting and useful to Indians.

(1) The two major political problems which face India are the attainment of a satisfactory international status, and the evolution of a political system which can combine respect for the appropriate autonomy of territorial and religious minorities with national unity. There is, I think, a tendency in India to over-emphasize the first of these two problems and to forget that the second is, in a democracy, the more important and, as the experience of the United States, of Canada, and of Australia shows, by far the more difficult of solution.

(2) Of the three countries mentioned, Canada's experience may be of particular value to India because:

(a) Canadian political evolution has been continuous and (during the last 100 years) peaceful;

(b) Canadian statesmen have dealt with both problems concurrently and have avoided the dangerous interval which occurred in the United States before a federal constitution was adopted;

(c) The minority problem has been of peculiar importance in Canada;

(d) Canada is not likely to be suspected either, on the one hand, of designs to promote imperialist ambitions, or, on the other, of pursuing interests antagonistic to those of the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth in general;

(e) Canada, as the closely associated North American neighbour of the United States, may find that the prestige which that country enjoys among Indian politicians has a certain favourable influence upon their attitude towards Canada as well.

(3) In these circumstances a representative of Canada may find opportunities to be of real service to the Indian people in their political evolution. It is, as I know you will appreciate, essential to this end that he should:

(a) Refrain scrupulously from becoming entangled in Indian politics;

(b) Keep on good terms with British official society in India, while not becoming identified with it;