

one. In that period, *Nisei* have been accepted with enthusiasm into Canadian communities and have demonstrated again and again their talents and their skills. In the highest ranks of business, *academia* and the public service are found persons with Japanese names. A number of them are so well known as to be virtual national celebrities.

Your presence here tonight, Prime Minister, on this small part of Canada, is symbolic as well as actual. By your presence you anticipate the formal launching early in the New Year of this important centennial. By your presence, too, you give me the opportunity to thank Japan, on behalf of all Canadians, for the contribution made to Canada by the men and women of Japanese origin who have shown through their courage, their tenacity, their industry and their skills what gifted Canadians they are. Their contribution to Canada is out of all proportion to their numbers, and we are grateful to them for their many qualities.

One of those qualities, Mr. Prime Minister, is forgiveness. In Lethbridge, the Japanese-Canadian community -- a good part of which consists of persons moved involuntarily from the Pacific Coast -- designed, built and presented to the city a beautiful Japanese-style garden on the occasion of Canada's Centennial in 1967. Next year, in celebration of the other centennial I have mentioned, a number of Canadian communities will be the beneficiaries of *Nisei* gift projects.

Today, *Nisei* are valued members of the Canadian community. They remind us all, in Canada and out, of the richness of diversity, of the benefits of tolerance, of the liveliness of a community of multiple origins. It has been the policy of my Government to create in Canada the conditions for such a society, to emphasize the multicultural character of Canada, and to encourage each of our ethnic communities to preserve and honour its own language, customs and cultures. We want every Canadian to be knowledgeable about his own identity and confident of his own personality.

I look forward, Prime Minister, to the day when you and Mrs. Miki are able to visit Canada, as I hope very much you will soon be able to do, so that you may become reacquainted with this aspect of Canadian society.

May I now, in addition to extending that invitation, issue another? It is directed to all present, to join with me in a toast to the health of Prime Minister Miki and of his charming wife, to the happiness and prosperity of the Japanese people, and to the continued friendship and co-operation between Canada and Japan.

---

S/C