

Visit of Indonesia's President to Ottawa

His Excellency Dr. Sukarno, President of the Republic of Indonesia, arrived in Ottawa on June 4 following a visit to Washington and other centres in the United States. President Sukarno was greeted at Uplands Airport by the Governor General, the Prime Minister, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other dignitaries and officials; included in the Presidential Party were the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ruslan Abdulgani, Members of the Indonesian Parliament and the Chief Justice of Indonesia.

During his two days in Ottawa, President Sukarno was a guest of the Governor General at Government House where he also attended a dinner and reception given in his honour by Mr. Massey. Included in his Ottawa programme were an address to a special joint session of the Senate and House of Commons, visits to the National Research Council, the RCMP Barracks at Rockcliffe and the Indonesian Embassy. Dr. Sukarno also laid a wreath on the National War Memorial and was host at a dinner and reception at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. On June 6 the Presidential Party left Ottawa for Chalk River, Arvida, Quebec City and Montreal, where on June 8 an honorary degree was conferred on Dr. Sukarno by McGill University. The following day the Presidential Party left Dorval Airport for Rome.

Dr. Sukarno's Address

The text of Dr. Sukarno's address to Parliament is reproduced below.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity of addressing the distinguished Parliament of this great country. I am also deeply grateful for the invitation which has brought myself and your other Indonesian guests to these hospitable shores.

In one very important sense Canada and Indonesia are neighbours. Your country is both an Atlantic Power and a Pacific Power, and travelling west from your shores the Republic of Indonesia is a neighbour of yours. Nothing is more important than knowing one's neighbours; that is one more reason why I was so glad to receive this invitation to visit you.

I feel that there is a close link between Canada and Indonesia. Both of these countries are on the verge of a great new period of development, and I am firmly convinced that the future of both countries will bring increased prosperity and increased happiness for all mankind.

Perhaps there is another link between us. In terms of history it is not so very long since Canada released herself from colonial bonds. If I am not mistaken, the uprisings in both Upper Canada and Lower Canada in 1837 did not immediately bring national independence, but they did bring a new political constellation, which led directly to the granting of responsible government to those colonies we now know as Canada. That new political constellation was a direct ancestor of the British North American Act which even today serves, with its amendments, as your constitution.