

participation in the affairs of the world which has given Canada an international status far beyond our numbers and even beyond the level of our physical and monetary contributions of recent years.

During my absence I have, of course, been in continual communication with the Cabinet here at home. I know that we still have problems of our own on the domestic front. It is here that my first responsibility lies. Every possible resource of the Government is being used to combat the national problems and individual hardships resulting from the world-wide economic slow-down.

It is a matter of great personal regret to me that some of these effects are still with us at this time. To inject a personal note, may I say my thoughts are very much with each of you, my fellow Canadians. I pray that the joys of Christmas may be yours in full measure; that the spirit of the blessed season be with you to comfort those in sorrow; to ease the cares of those who are sick; to lighten the burden of those in distress.

Mes chers concitoyens, j'ai en ce moment une pensée pour chacun d'entre vous. Puissiez-vous participer pleinement aux joies que nous procure Noël; puisse l'esprit de cette époque sainte de l'année reconforter ceux qui sont affligés; soulager ceux qui sont malades, et alléger le fardeau de ceux qui sont dans la misère. J'ai grand espoir -- et c'est aussi ma ferme détermination dans la mesure où il en dépendra de moi -- que la Nouvelle Année apportera à tous et à chacun d'entre vous des jours de paix, de prospérité et de bonheur. Bonsoir.

And for the New Year, my hopes are high and my determination firm that, in so far as it may be in my power, the days ahead will bring to each of you peace, prosperity and great happiness.

Goodnight.

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