

Pandit Nehru

being tapped; but men's thoughts, instead of being in terms of service and betterment of mankind, turn to destructive purposes. Destruction by these new and terrible weapons of war can only lead to unparalleled disaster for all concerned; yet people lightly talk of war and bend their energies to preparing for it. A very distinguished American said the other day that the use of the atom bomb might well be likened to setting a house on fire in order to rid it of some insects and termites.

Dangers undoubtedly threaten us, and we must be on our guard against them and take all necessary precautions. But we must always remember that we do not serve or protect mankind by destroying the house in which it lives and all that it contains.

The problem of maintaining world peace and of diverting our minds and energies to that end thus becomes one of paramount importance. All of us talk of peace and the desirability of it, but do we all serve it faithfully and earnestly? Even in our struggle for freedom, our great leader taught us the path of peace. In the larger context of the world we must inevitably follow that path to the best of our ability. I am convinced that Canada, like India, is earnestly desirous of maintaining peace and freedom. Both our respective countries believe in democracy and the democratic method, and in individual and national freedom. In international affairs, therefore, our objectives are similar, and we have found no difficulty thus far in co-operating for the achievement of these aims. I am here to assure the government and the people of Canada of our earnest desire to work in co-operation with them for these ends. The differences that have existed in our minds about east and west have little substance today, and we are all partners in the same great undertaking. I have little doubt that in spite of the dangers that beset the world today, the forces of constructive and co-operative effort for human betterment will succeed, and the spirit of man will triumph again.

I thank you again, sir, and the honourable members of this parliament, who shoulder a great responsibility, for your friendly and cordial welcome, and for your good wishes for my country. I realize that this welcome was extended to me not as an individual but as a representative and a symbol of my nation. I am sure that my people will appreciate and welcome the honour you have done them, and will look forward to fruitful harmony of endeavour between our two countries for the accomplishment of common tasks.

(Translation):

Before I conclude, Mr. Prime Minister, I should very much like to say a few words in French. I am sorry I am not proficient enough in that beautiful language to speak at length, but I assure you we have a deep liking for it.

To you French-Canadians, I convey the congratulations and warm wishes of the people of India, to which I add my own.

Hon. Elie Beauregard (Speaker of the Senate): Mr. Prime Minister of India, since you chose to conclude your brilliant speech in the language spoken by three to four million Canadians of French origin, may I on their behalf express their keen pleasure and offer you in French the token of their admiration.

Your accession to power coincides with India's entry into the large democratic family of the universe. Thanks to you, your great and diversified country, so rich in science, poetry and storied legend, peacefully takes its place within the council of sovereign nations. At the same time, you are resolutely entering into history.

You come from the Orient, whose patient philosophy knows the art of solving the most complex situations, an art which enabled you to sever your century-old union with the British empire and, almost at the same time, spontaneously to renew a link with the commonwealth.

At this very time of your visit among us, we, under different circumstances and in the normal course of our development, are peacefully making an almost identical gesture. In a few days, Canada, whose stature has grown during the last two wars without, however, leaving the orbit of the commonwealth, will be solely responsible for its destiny.

You bring the west a message of peace, of peace based on the equality of all men before God, before the law and before human conscience. You nevertheless wish India to become aware of its power, first of its economic power and then of the military power needed to protect that economic power.

You already know that America, whose mission is at present burdened with such a heavy responsibility, joyfully welcomes your message. Thanks to the high standard of living created by the industry of our neighbouring republic, the extremely varied races which are its components, merged together as though in a crucible, have become a proud