

criterion we, a small country beset by problems from within and without, constantly maligned in the Community of Nations, are proud of our record in forging a free, open, democratic society.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Israel, I salute Canada for the major role your country has played over the years for human freedom, for values that are dear to us and are the foundation of your society as they are of ours. We know Canada's remarkable contribution, both on this continent and in all countries of the world, and the growing importance of Canada's voice in international bodies. Relations between Canada and Israel, which are growing all the time, are of course based on common interests, but also above all on deep affinities.

For a country like ours, you are an example and a source of inspiration. You have opened the doors of freedom to immigrants from countless countries. You are an outstanding model of coexistence between individuals of different cultures and backgrounds who live here in a climate of mutual tolerance and respect for their original identity.

[*English*]

You have been endowed with the great gifts of nature and have demonstrated how to be worthy of the blessings of Providence by a national concern for a healthy environment which you preserve with fervour and devotion.

In the words of the Sour Dough:

There's a land where the mountains are nameless,
And the rivers all run God knows where—

He goes on:

Wild and wide are my borders, stern as death is my sway,
From my ruthless throne I have ruled alone for a million
years and a day;
Hugging my mighty treasure, waiting for man to come;

Yes, you came and you have succeeded in meeting the challenge of nature and in harnessing it in the cause of the march of progress, science, technology and agriculture for the benefit of mankind.

Your society is distinguished by a special emphasis on aesthetic beauty, cultural advance, and cultural innovativeness in literature, on the stage, on the screen, and in the arts. We share with you immense pride in the

impressive Jewish contribution to your cultural and national life.

I thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, and the distinguished Members of both Houses, again for your most kind welcome. I trust and pray that my visit will serve to strengthen the relations between our two peoples sharing our common values in the ongoing struggle for peace and the advance of man.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Guy Charbonneau (Speaker of the Senate): Mr. President, Mrs. Herzog, it is a pleasure to welcome you in our midst and to listen to a Head of State who has had a remarkable career as a soldier, lawyer, businessman, author and politician and who, incidentally, served during the Second World War with British troops under the First Canadian Army, at the Battle of Reichswald.

[*English*]

Your explanation of the situation in the occupied territories and of the policy of the Israeli Government is very timely. Canada has been actively involved in the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East since the era of Lester Pearson.

As recently as 1985, Canada responded favourably to an Israeli-Egyptian request that she participate in the peacekeeping force in the Sinai area returned to Egypt in 1982 under the Camp David Accord, thus ending a decade-long refusal to participate in peacekeeping operations not sponsored by the United Nations.

The Canadian encouragement of efforts toward peace in the Middle East has thus been constant down through the years, as has been the commitment to the right of Israel to exist within secure and recognized boundaries.

Your participation in this exchange of views between parliamentarians does us great honour, Mr. President. It is all the more significant in that, to our eyes, your personality matches that of your country. Neither you nor the State of Israel can be squeezed into any of the usual categories.

Both you and your country seem to be under the signs of paradox and contrast. Israel never ceases to accomplish natural miracles, a contradiction in terms that makes perfect sense when applied to Israel. This familiarity with paradox has led your countrymen to excel at