

in the main from Europe. But we have a cultural heritage which we share with you and a bond of brotherhood with you, inherited by the Europeans though Islam. We also have the benefits that your heritages and your culture made possible to all mankind. The development of mathematical thought, astronomy and medicine were made possible, Mr. Chancellor, because Islam, not only provided and enriched the links between East and West, but during the Dark Ages cherished and preserved the knowledge of the ancient Greeks for later generations of Europeans. When I say this it is not in any sense hypothetical, for there are now faculties at McGill University in Canada, and in other universities, for the special study of Islamic thought and deeds, Asian history and affairs. We are aware thereby of the unique gifts to mankind handed down by the enlightened civilizations of Asia and which come to us from Islam.

What I am here for is simply this; to bring to you a message of that new world; to tell you that Canada, having received a tremendous contribution from mankind, now endeavours in its way to repay something of what that heritage has meant to us. Canada has begun to repay some of the older civilizations. We are blessed with abundant natural resources and technical knowledge and modern industrial skills. We recall that the great Muslim scholars of the past did not selfishly harbour their knowledge. They made it available to mankind and we, as a country that has benefitted, think it proper that we should share with them, who did so much for us. We welcome the opportunity of the Colombo Plan to co-operate with the countries in South Asia and to share in the task of new construction and reconstruction. This afternoon I shall see something of the Warsak Development. These things we intend to continue. We believe that the Colombo Plan accomplishes the tasks at hand in the best and the quickest way. It has not been marred by useless controversy. We prize the opportunity it gives to bring us together to share with you a portion of our mutual heritage.

We also have the privilege to share it with you in another field, that of the membership of both of us in the Commonwealth. I have been deeply touched visiting your Armed Forces and seeing once more the living connection that exists in idealism and ideals between those that have served in that brotherhood, which above all others, causes unity. The Commonwealth is a unique association. I find at the beginning of this tour that there is a link as brothers in an atmosphere of trust and good will. There is no economic or political subordination where nations gather as equal partners. We believe in the concept of the Commonwealth, a union of hearts joined together in interdependence. We believe it contains within it, as a moment ago I quoted from the thoughts of Islam, the vibrant life of true comradeship for all mankind.