

The foregoing speech had been preceded on September 6 by the following statement by Mr. Martin during a visit to Hiroshima:

This, my first visit to Hiroshima, is a deeply moving experience. For almost 20 years the name of this city has been etched in the minds of all Canadians, as, indeed, of all men, as a symbol of the suffering and the horror of war. Hiroshima stands as a reminder that the madness of global conflict must never be allowed to happen again. The souls of the 85,000 join in mute testimony to the folly of war, and in fervent resolution that the lesson of catastrophe will not be learned in vain.

But, overwhelming as they are, these have been the least of my impressions in Hiroshima. In reality, the people of this city have offered much more in inspiration than the grim relics of the past. Hiroshima today is a bright, beautiful and modern city, a monument of justifiable pride for all Japan. The citizens of this town have built on the ashes and devastation of war a living symbol of eternal hope, hope in the ability of mankind to learn from the lessons of disaster, hope in the ability of all people to build a new world, a world better for knowledge of mistakes of the past.

A Symbolic Choice

I think there is something symbolic in your choice of a man born on the day the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima to carry the torch for the first Olympic Games to be held in Asia. To me this gesture underlines the determination of all Japanese people to forward the cause of peace. It epitomizes the hope that a new generation will make a new start and bring to a weary and waiting world the flame of resolution and dedication. The torch will remind all the world that the principles of fair play and unselfish dedication are not limited to the playing fields of the Olympic Games but must be applied to the most profound lessons of history. These principles alone provide meaning to what would otherwise be incomprehensible, and purpose to what would otherwise be futility.

And yet, Hiroshima means still more. I see in the commerce and enterprise of this city an acceptance of reality which is remarkable. I see a determination that life must go on and that man was born to live not in fear and recrimination but in hope and dedication. There is tolerance and acceptance indeed in Hiroshima's courtesy and hospitality. This city has shown us the strength and character of its courageous citizens. It has more than stoically accepted reality. It has resolved to better reality and build on the lessons of the past for the profit of the future. The inspiration of Hiroshima has encouraged the Japanese people to seek the good in what might have seemed profitless tragedy. The determination of the Japanese to count themselves among the pioneers in the world in the peaceful uses of atomic energy is surely a lesson that history will record to their credit. I must say that it is a source of pride and deep gratification to me that my country has been allowed to share with the Japanese the development of their atomic energy programme. It seems to me that in this participation in the harnessing of the awesome power of the atom for the betterment of mankind, instead of for its destruction, Canada is recognizing the real spirit of the people of this courageous community.