

APPENDIX

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ADDRESS

of

PROFESSOR DR. THEODOR HEUSS

President of the Federal Republic of Germany

to

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

in the

HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA

on

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1958 at 11.00 a.m.

Dr. Heuss was welcomed by the Right Honourable J. G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Mark Robert Drouin, Speaker of the Senate, and the Honourable Roland Michener, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister of Canada): Mr. Speaker and members of both houses of the Parliament of Canada: I welcome the President of the Federal Republic of Germany on this unique occasion, unique in that it is the first time that the Parliament of Canada has been addressed, and indeed it is the first time that North America has been visited, by a head of state of Germany.

President Heuss was a member of parliament for seven years. He was been a statesman, a professor of history and political science, a publicist and editor, a biographer and author.

Canada is a land of recent immigrants as measured in the perspective of human history, and they and their descendants have learned to live together in amity and brotherhood in this land. While the basic racial stocks are French and English, Canada is a land of many races who have all made their contribution to our traditions and development.

It is of interest to recall that the first of these races who came in the wake of the early French and British colonizers were some 2,300 persons from the Palatinate and the upper Rhine who between 1750 and 1752 were settled in Nova Scotia under a colonization plan of George III. They were followed by others of your race, sir, who came to Canada after the revolutionary war in large numbers from what today is the United States of America. Even at the time of Confederation there were within our country around 200,000 people of German origin. Today that number amounts to some 800,000 who have come and have made their citizenship here in keeping with the traditions of the other races who have joined together to comprise the people of Canada.

We meet here under unusual circumstances indicative of the fact that there is no finality in history; for that partnership that now exists among the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Canada and the other nations of NATO, including Germany and Italy, is indicative of those changes that have taken place in binding together the freedom-loving peoples of mankind.

During the presidency of our distinguished guest and under the wise statesmanship of Chancellor Adenauer, the Federal Republic of Germany joined and is now one of the major members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I believe that what these nations have been able to attain in understanding and co-operation will in the years ahead, if our faith is maintained, permit a like development of freedom under law for mankind, a worthy and attainable objective.

We believe with you that the free world must maintain its defences. We believe that the subjugation of defenceless nations on global proportions by force, infiltration and economic penetration makes it necessary that nations co-operate. Our experience in the past, of course, has been that pacts of themselves are insufficient. Deeds are needed as well as words, and for that reason Canada maintains the Canadian infantry brigade in the Soest area in Germany and bases for its air forces in Germany and France, and under the mutual aid program we train in Canada considerable numbers of German air crew personnel.

We believe that further attention and consideration to the principles of economic co-operation inherent in article 2 of the NATO treaty is necessary if NATO is to meet successfully the changing forms of Soviet influence.