

APPENDIX

ADDRESS

of

HONOURABLE LIAQUAT ALI KHAN

Prime Minister of Pakistan

to

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

in the

HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA

on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1950

The Prime Minister of Pakistan was welcomed by the Right Honourable L. S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Elie Beauregard, Speaker of the Senate, and the Honourable W. Ross Macdonald, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister of Canada): Mr. Prime Minister, members of the houses of parliament: In welcoming you today, sir, we wish to pay a tribute to your great country, which in so short a time has attained a place of prominence in the world community; to the rank it holds in the concert of nations as an active member of the United Nations and a sister nation of the commonwealth, and, last but not least, to the record of your personal achievement as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

We in turn are honoured by your presence in this House of Commons. These words of greetings are naturally addressed to you on behalf of the whole population of Canada; I find it particularly fitting, however, that this welcome be extended to you in our own House of Commons, the centre of the political life of Canada and the very heart of our democratic institutions. It is fitting indeed that greetings from one democracy to another originate in the House of Commons chamber.

The accomplishments of your country since it began its separate political existence on August 14, 1947, evoke sincere admiration. Your countrymen had a long tradition of history in the Asian subcontinent. Still it is only less than three years ago—and what are three years in the life of a nation?—that the dominion of Pakistan came into being. The

astonishing progress made during such a short time augurs well for the future, and you may rest assured, sir, that we in this country will watch your future achievements with the same friendly interest we have had in what has already been accomplished in so short a time.

The future of Pakistan, notwithstanding differences in religion and language, in customs and habits, notwithstanding lands and oceans which separate it from Canada, is closely related to our own through our common association in the United Nations, our partnership in the commonwealth, and, most of all, in our common belief in those values which form the very basis of democratic life. We hope therefore that our association will become closer and closer as we get to know each other better. The exchange of high commissioners between our two countries is but a first step in this direction.

At present Canadians are wont to associate particularly the names of two men with Pakistan: that of Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who is regarded as the father of his country and whose name has been immortalized by a grateful people's use of the title "the Great Leader", and your own, Mr. Prime Minister. Mr. Jinnah, in creating a new nation, relied heavily upon you, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, whom he described as his "right-hand man".