



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Statement by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the tenth session of the United Nations, Mr. Paul Martin, made in Plenary Session of the General Assembly, September 26, 1955.

Monsieur le Président,*

En ma qualité de participant à ce débat général qui n'en est encore qu'à ses débuts, permettez-moi de vous présenter, au nom de la Délégation du Canada, nos plus chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la dixième Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Je désire aussi vous assurer de notre entière coopération dans l'accomplissement de vos difficiles et importantes fonctions. Il y a trois ans, le distingué Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, l'honorable Lester B. Pearson, avait le privilège d'occuper le siège de président de la septième Assemblée. Grâce à cette expérience, nous sommes en mesure de savoir combien cette charge peut être onéreuse tout en étant réconfortante.

Par votre intermédiaire, M. le Président, je tiens à rendre un témoignage de reconnaissance à votre compétent prédécesseur, le Dr. Van Kleffens, qui présida avec si grande autorité nos débats de l'an dernier.

I am sure that every member of this Assembly was grieved to learn over the past weekend of President Eisenhower's sudden illness. We welcome today's news that he is progressing satisfactorily and we join the American people in wishing him a complete and speedy recovery. As the great leader of a peace-loving nation, President Eisenhower symbolizes all that is best in the ideals of this Organization. Despite the enormous burden of responsibility which he must carry, his far-seeing wisdom and sober council have been a constant source of encouragement to all peace-loving peoples. I know that I speak for every delegate to this Assembly when I express the fervent hope that President Eisenhower will soon be restored to sound health.

(Translation)

As one who is participating in this debate at a comparatively early stage, may I offer the warmest congratulations of my delegation on your election to the high office of President of this tenth General Assembly. May I also assure you of our complete co-operation in carrying out your difficult and important task. Three years ago, at the seventh Assembly, Canada's distinguished Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. L.B. Pearson, was privileged to occupy the Presidency and, for this reason, we have special reason to know how onerous, yet satisfying, these duties can be.

Through you, Mr. President, I should also like to acknowledge our great debt of gratitude to your able predecessor, Dr. Van Kleffens, who presided with such distinction over our deliberations last year.