

APPENDIX "A"

(See p. 750.)

ADDRESS OF MADAM INDIRA GANDHI
PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA
ON TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1973

The Prime Minister was welcomed by the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Muriel McQueen Ferguson, Speaker of the Senate.

Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons): On behalf of senators and members of the House of Commons I call upon the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada to introduce the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of India.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Prime Minister of India, Madam Speaker of the Senate, Mister Speaker of the House of Commons, members of the Parliament of Canada.

On behalf of the people of Canada, and of their representatives from both Houses of Parliament, I bid you, Madam Prime Minister, a cordial welcome.

You, Madam, are not the first leader of your country to honour this institution with your presence, nor is this the first occasion that you have been introduced to the Parliament of Canada. Nevertheless your appearance in this place today does represent a "first" of a kind because the Prime Minister of India who preceded you here was that distinguished international statesman, your father, the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In this chamber today are several parliamentarians who were present on that earlier occasion.

[Translation]

During the years since Prime Minister Nehru stood here, Canadian parliamentarians have seized many opportunities, both collectively and individually, to express their interest in India. An outstanding example is to be found in the career of a former speaker of this chamber who later represented Canada as High Commissioner in India before returning to this country to occupy his present high office of Governor General of Canada. Another example is found in the friendship which has developed between the present Speakers of the House of Commons and the Lok Sabha. These gentlemen have visited and conferred with one another on several occasions in our two capitals.

Gathered in this chamber today to listen to your address, Madam Prime Minister, are men and women from every region of our widespread country. Their presence in this institution, and their activities here, are guided by the same great traditions of parliamentary practice familiar to you as an Indian parliamentarian. Those traditions and those practices we regard, as do you, as a priceless heritage and as an incomparable guarantee of democratic freedoms. They are among the many invisible bonds that link us together as fellow members of that unique and immensely valuable association, the Commonwealth.

We share with you as well an appreciation of the problems that confront societies as diverse in their interests and their geographic roots as are those of Canada and India. We are aware, as are you, of the need to fulfill the expectations of peoples rightly demanding recognition of individual dignity and public well-being.

[English]

Your visit to Canada comes a quarter of a century following India's political maturity as an independent nation state, but several thousand years following India's maturity as a rich and creative civilization. It is partly in gratitude for the immense legacy of art, of wisdom, of philosophy, which we in the west have received from your ageless nation, that Canadians have offered developmental assistance to the modern India. And we share your pride that India's long-recognized role as a major political participant in the international community will soon be matched by an equally important role as a major economic participant.

In our talks these past two days, Madam, we have been able to identify several areas in which the Indian-Canadian relationship, always a friendly one, has developed and matured. We now share an opportunity to engage our two countries in a new and equally beneficial pattern but one which is based not so much on aid as on trade, not so much on technical advice as on the exchange of experience. In this respect I regard your visit here as marking a milestone in the history of Indian-Canadian relations which is as important as that marked by the visit of Prime Minister Nehru in 1949. In his address here, Mr. Nehru said that Asia was renaissance, that having gained political freedom, India faced the task of harnessing for human betterment her will, her natural resources, and her human material.

India's successes in doing so, and your personal contribution to those successes, Madam, not only prove the accuracy of that forecast but give to Canadians occasion to congratulate you on these accomplishments.

We welcome you, Madam Prime Minister, to this Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons): I now call on the Prime Minister of India, Madam Gandhi.

Madam Indira Gandhi (Prime Minister of India): Madam Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Members: It is no ordinary privilege to address the chosen representatives of a great nation. I stand before you in this august chamber in the knowledge that this gesture is not personal to me but an expression of the friendship that Canada has for India. I