

AN ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR. LESTER B. PEARSON, AT THE MAYURAKSHI CEREMONY, NOVEMBER 1, 1955.

It is good to be back in India after nearly six years. My absence almost coincides with the period of your First Five-Year Plan which has put so many and such large developments in train. I welcome the opportunity to learn something about these at first hand, reflecting, as they do, India's steady progress. Of course, my second-hand knowledge of them is already pretty comprehensive. Our High Commissioner takes great pains to ensure that this is the case by providing a continuing flow of information on these matters. But nothing, not even a High Commissioner's reports, quite takes the place of a personal visit and a personal experience.

Canadians rejoice whenever we hear that free India is succeeding in its drive for a fuller and better life for her people. We rejoice because our nations and our peoples are friends who are fraternally associated in the Commonwealth; and who are co-operating for the common good within the framework of the Colombo Plan and the United Nations. We are striving for the same things; for peace and security on earth; for the advancement of the dignity and worth of the individual, irrespective of his class, his creed or his colour; for free government, carried on by the consent of the governed.

An Enduring Monument

It is most fitting that the Mayurakshi project should be the first I am seeing in India. For one thing, you have done us the honour of naming it the "Canada Dam", and this will give us a special and continuing interest in the project. Here indeed is an enduring monument to Indo-Canadian co-operation and friendship. Our peoples have shared the cost. And because, among friends, when the welfare of some is furthered by help from others, we also share the benefit. It is as simple and as fundamental as that; as simple as neighbourly help and as fundamental as friendship.

The Mayurakshi development is an integral part of your First Five-Year Plan. You are now about to embark on a Second Plan—on the successful completion of the First. The Mayurakshi development is also an integral part of the Colombo Plan, which is one of the most farsighted and imaginative attempts at international co-operative assistance ever devised. Last week at Singapore, the Indian, Canadian and all the other governments concerned, agreed to continue in operation this Plan for at least another five years—evidence enough that the Colombo Plan has been a success. Mayurakshi bears true witness to that success, and to the friendship between peoples without which it would not have been possible.

It is not for me to tell you about this project—you who have made the plans and executed them with results which stretch well beyond the horizons which hem us in today. Although I could not recognize a kilowatt if I saw one, I have some idea of what 2,000 kilowatts of hydro-electric power can do when turned over to people with the initiative and resourcefulness to use them well. Although my practical experience with irrigation consists of dampening a small lawn with a hose, I know what water can mean to 600,000 acres spread in the path of the Indian sun, and to the people who must work them. Developments such as these have inspired some observers to say that the face of India is being transformed. Such comments smack of face-lifting, and I do not like the ungallant implications. Rather would I say that through developments such as these, India is staking her claim to a good future in the material and economic sense, without losing her wise heritage from the treasury of the past, or her sense of deeper spiritual values.

The magic of the Mayurakshi, then, is something for great satisfaction. And magic it is when you consider that here an initial investment of Canadian wheat will be transformed into a great harvest of Indian rice year after year after year. It is a