



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/12 PRIME MINISTER'S RADIO BROADCAST FROM KARACHI

An address by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, to the people of Pakistan, delivered by radio, on February 19, 1954.

I am very happy to be in Pakistan. I hope that my presence here will be regarded as a sign of the warm and friendly feelings of the people of Canada toward the people of Pakistan. I am indeed grateful for this opportunity of speaking to you, and I would like first of all to tell you how deeply I have been touched by the friendliness which, since my arrival, I have everywhere encountered. I bring you in return warm greetings from the Canadian people.

For many years I have wanted to visit your country. I am very glad that at last I am able to repay the visit with which your Quaid-i-Millat the late Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, honoured us in 1950. It was my privilege to meet him on more than one occasion. Like all Canadians, I held him in great respect for the statesmanlike leadership he gave to Pakistan in its earlier years.

It is also my privilege to enjoy the friendship of your present Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali, whom I knew well when he was High Commissioner for Pakistan in Ottawa, the Canadian capital. I can assure you that he made a great many friends there, both for himself and for Pakistan.

New Nation

Mr. Mohammed Ali would, I think, be the first to tell you that Canadians have been keenly interested in your country ever since you achieved your independence. The inheritors of an ancient culture, you have set out with vigour and determination to build a new nation. Perhaps this reminds us of the qualities which have been required of us Canadians in developing our own country -- for Canada, with its own cultural heritage, is also a new country which looks more to the future than to the past. Like you, we are proud to be pioneers. Of course, Pakistan and Canada have much else in common -- certainly not the climate, for when I left Canada it was cold and the earth was covered with snow -- but much that matters.

Memorable Words

Your great leader, Quaid-i-Azam, the late Mohammed Ali Jinnah, stated in a speech which he broadcast from Karachi on your first Independence Day in 1947: "The creation of the new State has placed a tremendous responsibility on the citizens of Pakistan. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how a nation containing many elements can