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A YEAR OF EXPECTATION AND EXCITEMENT

On December 30, the following year's end message was issued by Prime Minister L.B. Pearson:

As another year closes and we look forward to the beginning of a new one, we in Canada have a special reason for anticipation and excitement. This New Year, 1967, is the centennial of our nationhood. It is a time for celebration and a time for reflection; for the renewal of our hopes and expectations.

Most of all, I hope for more progress towards peace in our world in 1967 and for a strengthening of understanding and co-operation in Canada. The world needs more unity in the diversity of its nations, just as Canada needs more unity in the diversity of its social, cultural and regional interests.

It is my hope that our centennial year celebrations will increase our legitimate pride in our country and help us all to see Canada whole — not in its parts, in its divisions, in its difficulties, but whole, as a great and fortunate country with an honourable past of high achievement, a present of exciting and worthy effort, and a future, if we have the will and the goodwill, which promises a destiny beyond the dreams of those who made our Confederation 100 years ago.

A YOUNG NATION STILL

As we enter our centennial year, we are still a young nation, very much in the formative stages. Our national condition is still flexible enough that we can make almost anything we wish of our nationhood. No other country is in a better position than Canada to go ahead with the evolution of a national purpose devoted to all that is good and noble and excellent in the human spirit....

We should all be proud of the achievements of our country in its first 100 years. The record gives us good reason for optimism about the progress we can make in our second century. As we can look back with pride, so we can look forward with hope and with confidence.

We are a greatly blessed land, though we often don't seem to realize it as we complain about our difficulties and seem to doubt our destiny.

DUALISM AND DIVERSITY

We come from many races and are the better for it. We are forging a national unity — a national identity — out of the dualism of our origin and the diversity of our development.

Indeed, one of the most exciting and creative things about Canada is our social and cultural diversity. This gives Canadians a far broader opportunity for personal and national growth and fulfilment than could ever be found in cultural and social uniformity.

So the great challenge to Canadianism as we begin our second 100 years is whether we can live together in confidence and cohesion; with more faith and pride in ourselves and less of self-doubt and hesitation; strong in the conviction that the destiny of Canada is to unite, not divide; sharing in co-operation, not in separation or in conflict; respecting our past and welcoming our future, but at the same time enjoying to the full the blessings of our present. And they are many.

As we celebrate our centennial, we also face challenges and problems — the new problems that a new age is bound to bring along with new oppor-