

Republic other than to say that I found the new head of that ancient state to be a man dedicated to his fellow citizens and prepared to devote his talents to the cause of France and her allies among the free nations. Our own direct interest as Canadians in the future of that great country was once again brought home to me in my visit to the headquarters of NATO, the Atlantic bastion of freedom against the floodtide of communism.

I must pass over quickly my visit to the other NATO countries, West Germany and Italy. I had previously met Chancellor Adenauer. Our talks added more to my admiration for him and for what he is doing to maintain, for the rest of the free world, the vital salient of the front line of freedom. Here we met our Canadian troops and their families. It is with the greatest pride that I report to all Canadians that the men and women of our Armed Forces stationed in Europe are adding lustre to the name and fame of Canada by their exemplary conduct and professional efficiency.

I stopped briefly in Italy for talks with Prime Minister Fanfani. The people of Italy have long been engaged in an internal battle against communist infiltration. Its success is vital to world peace. It is my impression that the battle is being won and that this great nation, to which the Western world owes so much of its heritage, will stand firm on the side of freedom.

After an all too short meeting with Prime Minister Manushar Eghbal of Iran, I went on to Pakistan, in which delightful country we met many Canadians engaged in the great hydro-electric project at Warsak. This is a tremendous undertaking and the fine spirit of co-operation between Canadians and Pakistanis here is doing much to develop a new and important relationship between Canada and this populous new nation. It is a relationship which must, in the long run, prove mutually advantageous to both our peoples.

In Pakistan, as in India which we visited next, I experienced at first hand the warm desire of all the Asian members of the Commonwealth for the quickest possible bridging of the gulf between the East and the West of the freedom nations. That it can and will be achieved, I have not the slightest doubt, if we do our part. As a member of the Commonwealth, Canada has a significant role to play both in Asia and in Africa, where the vast majority of the members of the Commonwealth now live. The ties that bind are potentially strong. These new nations have joined us of their own free will and choice. They are extending to us the right hand of fellowship and it is my impression that, on both political and economic grounds, Canada is in a better position than any other Western nation to clasp these hands of friendship and so bring about an understanding between East and West.

The highlight of the Indian visit was, of course, our meetings with Prime Minister Nehru. I think he would allow me to say that our few days together developed an earlier acquaintanceship into a genuine friendship.