



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 59/7 THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE MODERN WORLD

A speech by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, at the Convocation of the University of Delhi, on November 22, 1958.

First, I must express my profound thanks and appreciation for the honour that has been done to me on behalf of my country. I am deeply appreciative of the fact that you have adopted me as a member of this great group and company, joined together as the University of Delhi. ...

Mr. Chancellor, I came to India as a student. Perhaps I have graduated rather more quickly, and certainly with less difficulty, on this occasion than on an earlier occasion, not so many years ago. I must say, Sir, and I have said this on a number of occasions lately, that the welcome that I have received here in India is something my wife and I will always treasure. It is an example of the warm friendship which is one of those things that has become part and parcel of the Commonwealth. As I listened to your words, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, in which you pointed out that we were bound by the silken threads of ideas shared in common and implemented in practice, I could not but feel an added fellowship in being honoured as I have been on this occasion.

I would like to say to you, Sir, Mr. Chancellor, that it is an added honour to have the degree at your hands. As Chancellor of this university, and as the Vice-President of India, you are esteemed everywhere in the world as one of the most distinguished scholars in the world and as a dedicated servant, not only to the Indian nation, but to the people of mankind as a whole. The Canadians have had the privilege of hearing you speak on more than one occasion. I need not recall to you that occasion at McGill University when you delivered the Beatty Lectures; when you shared with the Canadians your wisdom and clothed it with the majestic and inspiring language for which you are noted.

Though we are separated by many thousand miles, the quality and tradition of India's centres of learning, and of this University of Delhi, are known to Canadians and