

were given thoughtful consideration and the questions I asked answered fully and forthrightly. Wherever I went, I found a manifest wish to have Canada understand the positions taken. This reminds us of Canada's special standing as a peace-seeking and peace-making nation and is evidence, perhaps, of the need for understanding on the part of the nations in conflict.

IRAN, ISRAEL AND EGYPT

My first visit was to Iran, where I saw a nation pre-occupied with the advancement of its economy and the improvement of the conditions of life of its people. Its geographical location requires Iran to be intimately involved in the problems of the Middle East. I found a nation some 6,000 miles from Canada, in the heart of the Middle East, pursuing a Middle Eastern policy closely parallel to our own. In my subsequent visits, I found my discussions in Tehran most useful, both for the information I drew from them and for the political attitudes expressed.

In Israel, I was moved, as anyone must be, by the sense of pride in nationhood that characterizes that country, and deeply impressed by what has been achieved in nation-building in 20 years. In Egypt, I saw a nation where the evidences of ancient glory are very much present, contrasting cruelly with the present-day struggle to evolve a better standard of living for its people.

The situation in the Middle East today is tragic. There is so much to be done in that part of the world, and the will and technology are there. The tragedy is that in so many of the countries the resources needed for development are tied up in an arid confrontation which threatens to burst into violent conflict.

DEEP DISQUIET

I left the Middle East with a profound sense of disquiet. Effective negotiation is not an immediate prospect. Escalation of the conflict is an immediate danger. In these circumstances, perhaps the best role for Canada to play in the foreseeable future is that of an understanding, compassionate and objective observer, ready to assist if and when there is a specific task for us to undertake at the instance of both sides.

Let us hope that, notwithstanding the present difficulties, counsels of moderation will prevail, and that someday, somehow, peace will come to the Middle East.

It would not be appropriate in a statement of motions to review in detail the bilateral discussions we had in each capital. There are great trading opportunities, particularly with Iran and Israel, and some important possibilities with the United Arab Republic. All three countries are eager for increasing contact with us. Perhaps one of the ways we can help is to be more of a presence in the Middle East, a part of the world that needs friends and cherishes friendship.

GOLD RUSH DAYS RECALLED

The Klondike Gold Rush, a chapter of Canadian history still alive in the memory of some Canadians, will be recalled in national historic sites at Dawson City, Bonanza Creek and Whitehorse in the Yukon, and Bennett, British Columbia. Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, recently announced plans for the \$2-million development commemorating the Gold Rush, Yukon mining days and transportation history.

TRAIL OF '98

The starting-point for visitors wishing to visit the "Trail of '98" will be Dawson City, whose old post office will serve as the main interpretation center. Properties that are already or soon will be under the national historic parks system include Robert Service's log cabin, a blacksmith shop, the Yukon Commissioner's residence, the married quarters of the North West Mounted Police and other buildings typical of the Gold Rush period. These, with the Palace Grand Theatre, a national historic site since 1959, will be restored to their appearance between 1898 and 1910.

The history of the mining industry over the past 70 years will be told at Dawson City and Bonanza Creek. Placer, hydraulic and dredge mining techniques will be demonstrated at Dawson. The process of turning mined gold ore into gold bricks will be seen at Bonanza Creek, near Discovery Claim, the site of the first discovery of gold in 1896.

PADDLEWHEELERS AND STAMPEDERS

Two sternwheelers, the S.S. *Keno* at Dawson City, which has been a national historic site since 1960, and the S.S. *Klondike* at Whitehorse, will show the importance of river transportation in opening up the Yukon. The *Klondike*, which is to become a transportation museum, will be restored to her original 1930 profile as an ore-carrier.

The eccentricities and heroism of the "Stampeders" in the trek north to Whitehorse can be relived in an historical interpretation center at Bennett, B.C. The famous wintering at Bennett, the Gold Rush routes, the building of boats for transportation, and the coming of the railway to the North will illustrate the social history of this period.

Mr. Chrétien said officials from the Canadian and U.S. national parks services are discussing the possibility of a joint program to make the Skagway-Whitehorse route more accessible to the increasing number of hikers wishing to retrace the footsteps of the Stampeders. Recently, a team from both services completed the crossing of the Chilkoot Pass.

Canadian coal production in September amounted to 862,682 tons, an increase of 11.7 per cent from the September 1968 production of 772,518 tons, while landed imports were 1,545,755 tons, compared to 2,332,441 tons for September 1968.