

The Premier of France

have confidence in the future of their country, they are ready to face the challenging tasks which lie before them—the construction of Europe, the development of the Sahara, the building of Eurafica. Yes, at your side, in all just and generous undertakings, you will always find “la France éternelle”.

(Text):

Hon. Arthur L. Beaubien (Acting Speaker of the Senate): May I, monsieur le Président du Conseil de France, on behalf of the Senate of Canada, thank you for your visit and for the eloquent and inspiring address which you have just delivered. It is always a pleasure to welcome the leaders of great nations with whom we have had so many memorable associations. It is particularly so as we welcome you, sir, as the eminent representative of a people to whom so many Canadians trace back their racial origin. We are happy and gratified to have been able, in Canada, to demonstrate that peoples of different racial origins can live together in peace and harmony.

May we respectfully ask you to convey our greetings to the members of your Conseil de la République and of your national assembly.

(Translation):

Mr. President of the French Council of Ministers, you are doing us a great honour and giving us great pleasure in visiting us today, and we sincerely hope that you may come back soon.

(Text):

In wishing you Godspeed, we pray Divine Providence to bless all your endeavours.

(Translation):

Hon. L. René Beaudoin (Speaker of the House of Commons): Mr. President of the Council, the Canadian House of Commons joins the Senate in greeting you as the representative of the glorious French nation and in extending its most cordial welcome on behalf of the people of Canada. We are also happy to greet at the same time Mr. Christian Pineau, your Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Mr. Francis Lacoste, Ambassador of France to Canada.

Our century is overburdened with problems whose solution must logically be entrusted to exceptionally gifted leaders. Each inter-

national crisis is a test for the initiative and courage of a few outstanding men who must be able to overcome all obstacles. We are pleased to note, Mr. President of the Council, that your name has already a place in the history of contemporary diplomacy, and Canadian parliamentarians—more especially those whose language is French and who look upon France as their mother country—are particularly proud of the important part you are playing on the international scene in order to ensure the triumph of justice, to guarantee universal peace and defend democratic principles.

Your visit will serve to strengthen the spirit of co-operation and solidarity which has long characterized the relations between Canada and civilizing France, the France which has always upheld the cause of the noblest liberties.

(Text):

In April 1951, this parliament had the great honour of welcoming Mr. Vincent Auriol, the then president of the French republic. On that occasion, Mr. Auriol brought the affectionate message of France to this very hall, which he called “the meeting place of forces, young and eager, English and French, the union of which has created this nation, thus constituting an immense human treasure for the future.”

And he added, “sons of the British Isles, sons of France, what a magnificent example you are giving to the world, what a long path you have travelled together!”

In welcoming you today, and after listening to your eloquent address, we could not but recall those complimentary remarks which, like your own words, have filled us with emotion and pride.

Life has a habit of repeating itself and, for this reason, we hope that we have remained worthy of, and still possess, the virtues inherited from our British and our French ancestors.

(Translation):

Mr. President of the Council, your visit is indeed very gratifying to us. It affords us a further opportunity to proclaim the heartfelt friendship of all Canadians for France, and we continue to pay homage to the mission which ideals have clearly assigned to her.