

VISIT OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO OTTAWA

Mr. Eisenhower delivered an address to Members of the Senate and of the House of Commons and general public in the House of Commons Chamber on the second day of his visit, November 14. He was welcomed by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent:

MR. ST. LAURENT

We are greatly honoured by the presence here today of the President of the United States of America. I am sure that I speak not only for those who are seated in this Chamber but for all of our fellow Canadians, Mr. President, when I say to you how pleased we are that you have been able to pay another visit to our capital city, this time as the first citizen of your great country . . .

Your visit, sir, marks the third time that the Chief of State of the United States has paid a visit to the capital city of Canada. Just ten years ago your great wartime President honoured us by coming to Ottawa after the first of those historic conferences in Quebec. Mr. Roosevelt set a precedent which I hope will continue to be followed in the future. There can surely be no more tangible evidence of the friendly relationship which exists between our two peoples than friendly visits of this kind between representatives of our two nations.

Leadership Appreciated

When I had the privilege of being your guest in Washington earlier this year . . . I found evidence among all those whom I was privileged to meet of a warm and friendly feeling for the people of Canada. That is only one reason why I hope—and all Canadians both in this Chamber and outside will share that hope—that you will return to Washington with an increased consciousness of our high regard for the American people and for yourself. We would also like you to know that we are grateful for the leadership your nation is providing in the common effort of free men and women to make our world a safer and better place for future generations.

This leadership given by the United States is moreover untainted by any desire for national self-aggrandizement. By positive and unselfish actions, which are unique in history, the American people have recognized that threats to the safety and well-being of liberty-loving peoples anywhere are threats to all peoples everywhere who believe in the dignity and freedom of the individual. Your nation's contributions to the restoration of war-devastated lands have been generous to an extent unprecedented in international relations. Your example, as a member of the United Nations, of vigorous and immediate resistance to wanton aggression has revived the hopes of anxious peoples that, through collective action, international peace may be secured and maintained.

The characteristically energetic manner in which the United States has fulfilled the responsibilities it has voluntarily assumed has been interpreted by a few detractors as an indication that your country is seeking to

impose its policies on or dominate the life of other free nations.

We Canadians are in the best position to know how false are such suspicions. Although your population, and your economic and military strength, are many times greater than ours, we have no fear that this strength will be used to threaten or overawe us. We are the more secure because you are a good as well as a strong neighbour. No guns have been fired in anger across our borders for almost a century and a half. The only invasions from the south are of the annual friendly variety when millions of your compatriots travel north to share in the enjoyment of our great natural recreational facilities and perhaps to feel the pulse of our growth. Canadians in their turn retaliate by moving in large numbers to experience the entertainment and cultural advantages of your great cities and to bask in the sun of your semi-tropical southlands.

Of course, there are many strong American influences on Canadian life, but these have not prevented the growth of a distinct Canadian feeling and culture, which flourishes and will continue to develop alongside the influences of your dynamic society. This is as it should be, for our own history teaches us that co-operation can be closer when differences are recognized. Likewise, the co-operation between our two countries is deep and close because it is free and desired, not something imposed upon a reluctant people by a powerful neighbour.

We in Canada also feel, Mr. President, that the powerful influence which your nation exerts in the world community is, in action as well as in aim, an influence for good and we welcome it.

Work in Harmony

Together, the United States and Canada prove to the world that a great power and a lesser power can work in harmony without the smaller being submerged by his bigger neighbour. We Canadians know that in the interests of our mutual defence we can wisely and safely pool many of our military resources with yours in a security system which is genuinely collective. We know, too, that through the instruments of diplomacy and through direct negotiation we can solve amicably and justly the many problems which arise along our lengthy common border. Sometimes we may wish they could be solved more rapidly, but we know they can be solved in the end. And we also know that when the Canadian view on any matter is different from the American view, our opinions will be listened to with patience and respect.

That our two nations get along so well is due in no small part to the leaders whom the American people, in their wisdom, have