

common sense of nationhood in which all ideas of vengeance and retribution are impermissible.

Our country must, by its deeds, take its place among the nations of the Earth as the champion of peace, a defender of freedom and democracy, an enemy of poverty and human degradation.

You have been and are with us as we struggle to end the system of white minority domination. As an expression of our common humanity, and not an act of charity, we ask that you continue to walk the last mile with us. As your future partner, you will have a society whose hallmarks will be tolerance of all views and respect for the life and dignity of every person, both young and old.

We thank you that you bent every effort to secure our release from prison. You gave us the possibility, whose importance to us is without measure, to join hands with our own people, with you and the rest of humanity to bring about the change in our country and our region which even the mute but blood-stained stones in the killing fields of southern Africa demand must come and must come now.

We shall forever be obliged to you for this and for this unforgettable moment you have given us to speak to you about our dreams and to contribute a little to the everlasting friendship between the Canadian and South African people.

Our common victory, the victory of democracy and non-racialism, is within our own grasp. Liberty, equality, and fraternity shall reign supreme in our country as well. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1210)

Hon. Guy Charbonneau (Speaker of the Senate): Mr. Mandela, Madam, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, distinguished guests.

[*Translation*]

On behalf of my colleagues in the Canadian Senate, I want to thank you, Sir, for honouring us with your presence and addressing this joint assembly, despite your busy schedule.

[*English*]

You are a constant amazement to the world. Hardly had you tasted the joy of liberty when you resumed your struggle to win for your victimized fellow citizens their full entitlement of rights.

To hear the words of a leader who has had his convictions tested by the fire, as yours have been, is an extraordinary and, indeed, humbling experience.

Your message touches us deeply because as we listen to you we hear the voice of a pilgrim of freedom, an inspired evangelist who has been physically imprisoned and morally banned from his belief.

It was for justice and morality that you undertook the campaign against the evil of apartheid, a fight which seemed to us all the more arduous and courageous because at the start it was against the fanaticism which claimed divine sanction.

[*Translation*]

To fight the doctrine of racial segregation, it was necessary to stand firm, both morally and intellectually. When your detractors sounded off their dogmas, you reacted by revealing the truth. When they tried to gag you, the truth you revealed was echoed throughout the world.

[*English*]

We have followed with anguish your implacable fight for justice, truth and humanity which you conducted with such courage, patience and self-denial. As you have pointed out, it is a fight which must be won. Those who would have us believe in biological pollution must be brought to see that biology is a science, not an obsession with race or skin colour.

Your endurance has proved to be the most effective of exorcisms. The imminent victory of the cause for which you and others have fought so hard and so long is a vindication of your convictions and resolution, and one in which all who love liberty will rejoice.

In your wisdom you are ensuring that the gains so hardly won will be consolidated and built upon. The signs of progress are encouraging. Reason seems at last to want to play a role in the politics of your country.

For the free world, and especially for the South Africa that is coming to birth, you are one of the standard bearers.