

*Address by President Eisenhower*

I salute you also for the important part which you have played, in co-operation with your English-speaking fellow citizens, in the development of this great country.

(Text):

Mr. Prime Minister, for the very great generosity of the personal welcome that you have expressed toward me I am humbly grateful; as well as for the reception that Mrs. Eisenhower and I have experienced here and throughout this city. We should like to extend to all your people our very deep appreciation, especially for the honour of being received before this body. I assure you that you have given us distinction that we shall never forget.

Since world war II I have now been privileged three times to visit this great country and this beautiful city.

On my first visit, more than seven years ago, I came to express to the Canadian people a field commander's appreciation of their memorable contribution in the liberation of the Mediterranean and European lands. On my second, I came to discuss with your governmental leaders your country's role in the building of Atlantic security. Both visits, in the warmth and spirit of a great people's welcome, were days that I shall remember all my life.

This day I again salute the men and women of Canada.

As I stand before you, my thoughts go back to the days of global war. In that conflict, and then through the more recent savage and grievous Korean battles, the Canadian people have been valorous champions of freedom for mankind. Within the framework of NATO, in the construction of new patterns of international security, in the lengthy and often toilsome exploration of a regional alliance, they have been patient and wise devisers of a stout defence for the western world. Canada, rich in natural gifts, far richer in human character and genius, has earned the gratitude and the affectionate respect of all who cherish freedom and seek peace.

I am highly honoured by the invitation of the parliament of Canada that I address it. For your invitation is rooted in the friendship and sense of partnership that for generations have been the hallmark of relations between Canada and the United States. Your country, my country—each is a better and stronger and more influential nation because each can rely upon every resource of the other in days of crisis. Beyond this each can work and grow and prosper with the other through years of quiet peace.

We of our country have long respected and admired Canada as a bulwark of the British commonwealth and a leader among nations.

As no Soviet wile or lure can divide the commonwealth, nothing will corrupt the Canadian-American partnership.

We have a dramatic symbol of that partnership in the favoured topic of every speaker addressing an audience made up of both our peoples—our unfortified frontier. But though this subject has become shopworn and well-nigh exhausted as a feature of after-dinner oratory, it is still a fact that our common frontier grows stronger every year, defended only by friendship. Its strength wells from indestructible and enduring sources—identical ideals of family and school and church, and traditions which come to us from a common past.

Out of this partnership has evolved a progressive prosperity and a general well-being, mutually beneficial, that is without parallel on earth. In the years ahead, the pace of our mutual growth will surely be no less.

To strive, even dimly, to foresee the wonders of Canada's next generation is to summon the utmost powers of the imagination. This land is a mighty reservoir of resources. Across it, at this moment, there moves an extraordinary drama of enterprise and endeavour—Canadians, rapidly building basic industries, converting waters into hydroelectric energy, scrutinizing your soil for new wealth, pushing into the barrens of the north for minerals and oil. You of Canada are building a magnificent record of achievement, and my country rejoices in it.

More than friendship and partnership is signified in the relations between our countries. These relations that today enrich our peoples justify the faith of our fathers that men, given self-government, can dwell in peace among themselves, progressive in the development of their material wealth, quick to join in the defence of their spiritual community, ready to arbitrate differences that may rise to divide them. This parliament is an illustrious symbol of a human craving, a human search, a human right to self-government.

All the free legislatures of the world speak for the free peoples of the world. In their deliberations and enactments they mirror the ideas, the traditions, the fundamental philosophies of their respective nations.

On the other hand, every free nation, secure in its own economic and political stability, reflects the responsible leadership and the wise comprehension which its legislature has brought to the management of public affairs.

This continent uniquely has been a laboratory of self-government, in which free legislatures have been an indispensable force. What is the result? It is a mighty unity built of values essentially spiritual.