

will now face the test of good democratic governance as determined by the voting public.

In his acceptance speech on October 9, 2004, President-elect Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has called for national unity, an end to regional conflicts, a revitalization of the economy and a war on corruption through better law enforcement, as priorities in his first 100 days in office.

Mr. Yudhoyono has also pledged to put together a cabinet of technocrats to try and break the grip on power of the big political parties, which many voters believe have failed them. Mr. Yudhoyono has predicted a "beautiful period" for Indonesia if our government and business leaders work together. And, of course, in ushering in that "beautiful period" we need all the help we can get from our friends. I probably do not need to tell anyone here that Canada is one of the few western nations that the Indonesian people regard as a very close friend. As we walk the road to freedom, we pray that Canadians will stand at our side. Let me look back a little at our long friendship.

With regard to the warm relations between Indonesia and Canada, I would like to pointed out that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia extends its highest appreciation to a highly decorated Canadian soldier, diplomat and politician. Indonesia's highest honour of "Bintang Jasa Utama" was awarded posthumously to General Andrew McNaughton for his meritorious service rendered to the Indonesian people.

The heartiest relations between our two nations evolved from the days when the young, fledging Indonesian Republic was making a case for international recognition of its independence and freedom in the meeting room of the UN Security Council (UNSC) back in 1947-1949.

It centered on the "Canadian Proposal" designed by a remarkable Canadian, General Andrew McNaughton, who was three times President of the UNSC. Under his brilliant leadership, the UNSC was able to bring the two conflicting parties in Indonesia to end the war and to then meet in a peace conference that led to the transfer of sovereignty from The Netherlands to Indonesia in 1949. Since then, the relationship between Canada and Indonesia has deepened and endured through good times and bad times.

The friendship between Canada and Indonesia has not only endured over five decades, it has also broadened and intensified.