

through your Five-Year Plan. We have been happy, through the Colombo Plan, to assist in this splendid endeavour, on the success of which depends the well-being of millions of your people.

I want you to know, too, that Canadians are grateful to India for the conscientious, active part she has been playing in international affairs. We Canadians are glad that Mr. Nehru and other Indian leaders have found it possible to spare time from their pressing preoccupations at home to help in the solution of world problems, and that India has assigned so many able public servants to work in the international field.

For us one of the most pleasant and rewarding results of your participation in world affairs is the opportunity it gives us to meet frequently with Indian representatives with whom we are associated in the United Nations, in other international organizations and in the Commonwealth. In these days, when the destinies of people all over the world are so closely bound together, the value of such meetings can hardly be over-estimated.

Personally, I have particularly welcomed the opportunities which conferences of Commonwealth Prime Ministers have given to me to meet and talk with your Prime Minister. While this is the first time I have met him in India, several other Canadian Ministers, including three members of the present government, have visited your country. Mr. Sinclair, who attended the meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee this last fall, travelled extensively in India and brought back a report on his tour which makes me wish I could stay with you as long as he did.

Next September we will have the pleasure of receiving the Consultative Committee in Ottawa. Your delegates will follow in the footsteps of many other distinguished Indians who have come to Canada during the past few years. Last year we were honoured by visits from your Vice-President, Dr. Radhakrishnan, as well as from Mrs. Pandit and Mr. Krishna Menon. Also from time to time I receive welcome visits from Indian officials and students who come to Canada under the Colombo Plan or under the Technical Assistance programme of the United Nations.

Perhaps our most intimate association with you is within the Commonwealth. Like you, we enjoy the friendship of many peoples outside it, and certainly our main objective is to expand this sphere of international co-operation as much as possible. Although there may be those who hold a different view, I am of the opinion that the Commonwealth contributes to this broader objective. And it does this without in any way limiting the freedom of action of any of its members. It has no central organization and we all retain full control of our foreign policies as well as our domestic policies.

There is a certain easy, constructive relationship within the Commonwealth, the quality of which is difficult to define. It is something more than the fact that each member cherishes in accordance with its own heritage, freedom under the rule of law. The special quality of our Commonwealth relationship seems to me to be derived from intangible ties of friendship, mutual respect and confidence. The bond which exists between Canada and India provides, I think, a particularly happy illustration of relations within the Commonwealth.