

characterized relations between Canada and Iran, and expressed his conviction that the links of amity binding the two states would be strengthened in the years ahead.

The coronation of the Shah was marked in Ottawa by a special reception given by the Ambassador of Iran to Canada, His Excellency Moshen Merat Esfandiary, at which the Ambassador spoke of the close ties between Iran and Canada. In his reply on behalf of the Canadian Government, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, said:

"It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Ambassador, to say that Canada joins with Iran in rejoicing at the coronation of the Shahanshah on a throne prestigious for 2,500 years and to convey on behalf of myself and the Canadian Government our sincerest felicitations. Canadians have in the past two years been deeply pleased to welcome to our land the Shahanshah and the gracious Empress Farah on two different occasions. It is, therefore, with the esteem born of knowledge that we extend our warmest wishes on the occasion of Their Imperial Majesties' coronation concurrent with the birthday of the Shahanshah and Iran's national day.

"I should like to take this opportunity to express Canada's profound admiration for the Shahanshah's action within Iran founded upon land-reform and literacy campaigns and for his consistent respect to the immensely rich heritage of Iran. As Iran's prestige in international affairs continues to grow, it is my sincere wish that the ties between our two countries, already strengthened by Their Imperial Majesties' visits, may in the future become closer still.

"May I conclude, Mr. Ambassador, with our hope that Iran will continue to be blessed with peace and prosperity under a long and happy reign of Their Imperial Majesties."

At the coronation ceremonies in Tehran, the Canadian Government was represented by Mr. P. D. Lee, Chargé d'Affaires *a.i.* at the Canadian Embassy.