

of the two most powerful countries on earth. I saw Leningrad, that creation of Peter the Great, which lost almost a million of its inhabitants in 900 days of wartime siege. And had it not been for bad weather, I should have seen Kiev, the historic capital of the Ukraine.

As I visited all these places and talked with their people, I further confirmed my assessment of what is taking place in Eastern Europe -- and there is certainly change afoot. My thoughts also turned instinctively to the hundreds of thousands of people in Canada of Polish descent, of Ukrainian and Russian descent. I understood their love for the countries from which they and their ancestors had come and I understood better some of the sources of the great contributions which they have brought to Canada.

I was honoured to be received in Rome by His Holiness the Pope and was again impressed by his wise and compassionate understanding of the troubles of the world, as well as by his great spirit of ecumenism which has done so much to bring the Christian churches closer together. His Holiness commended the efforts of Canada to bring about peace. I told him that the leadership which he and other great religious leaders were continuing to give to international collaboration met with warm support and appreciation in Canada. I can only say that I have the strongest hope that my talks with the Pope as with the other leaders will be shown to have yielded productive results.

In conclusion, I should say that members of the House will be gratified to know that in all the countries I visited there was ample evidence of the high regard in which our country and its people are held, and of a wish to work with us towards the objective we all endorse of creating a peaceful world.

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