

Djakarta, the capital of Indonesia, was the next stop on our itinerary. We arrived there near the end of November and were welcomed by a number of Ministers and other officials. On the evening of our arrival Prime Minister Sastroamidjojo gave a dinner followed by a performance of native dances. I was able to have further talks in Djakarta with the Prime Minister and a brief but illuminating talk with President Sukarno whom I had met during his visit to Canada last spring. In my talks with the Prime Minister we spoke extensively of the importance of the parliamentary system in Indonesia and I was glad to be able to pay a visit to the Speaker of their Parliament and to see that body in operation during one of its sessions. Towards the close of our visit we drove up into the mountains to spend the night in the Canadian bungalow near Bogor. Formed from volcanic eruptions, the surrounding countryside is the richest looking I have ever seen, and, with efficient irrigation, yields much fruit and great fields of rice. I will never forget the ride to Bogor. There is an almost continuous settlement along the road for the sixty miles which separates Bogor from the capital. On hearing the strident noise of the siren of our police escort, people came out of their houses by the thousands to watch us pass. As I felt the occasion called for some manifestation of our friendship, I waved continually at the crowds, receiving the most friendly acknowledgments. Now and then we would stop; I would go into a house and the Protocol Officer would interpret for me. I was much impressed by the richness and general rural contentment of the countryside which we saw on our drive and which will remain, along with the incredible greenness of the surroundings and the cheerful and friendly appearance of the people, my most vivid memories of Indonesia. It seemed to me that occasions like these, and they were to be repeated later on in another context during our visits to the Indian villages, provided excellent opportunities for a Canadian to demonstrate our true feelings towards these people who may in the past have perhaps received less fortunate impressions of our real attitude towards them.

Our next stop was Australia, which we were to visit twice, before and after the Colombo Plan Conference in Wellington. Canada had taken a position different from that of Australia and New Zealand during the United Nations debate on the Anglo-French intervention in Suez. So it was particularly useful and helpful for me to visit these two valued partners in the Commonwealth at this time for the exchange of views with their governments. I had the opportunity of discussing these matters in question with Mr. Menzies, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Casey, his Minister for External Affairs, and, indeed, on one memorable afternoon with all the members of his Government. Mr. Menzies assured me that notwithstanding what may in particular instances be differences in point of view, one thing that the world could know of Canada was that it spoke as a member of the Commonwealth in the light of what it understood to be its obligations based on no consideration but the good of the Commonwealth and the good of all nations throughout the world.

During the first stage of our Australian visit I had the welcome opportunity to visit the Olympic Games then in progress at Melbourne, to talk and to have dinner on one occasion with members of the Canadian Olympic team, and to spend at least one afternoon in the huge stadium holding upwards of 100,000 people. Melbourne is one of the loveliest cities I have ever seen, and its splendid handling of the Olympic games was a fitting tribute to the organizing ability of the Australians.