



PRESS RELEASE

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The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, has sent a message of greeting to the Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs of Ceylon, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, on the occasion of the coming into effect of the Ceylon Independence Act on February 4, 1948. The message is as follows:

"The attainment by Ceylon of fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations is an event of happy and historic significance. The Canadian Government and people join in wishing the Government and people of Ceylon success and prosperity in the years of self-government which lie ahead.

W. L. Mackenzie King."

The Ceylon Independence Act which was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom received royal assent on December 10, 1947, and comes into effect on February 4, 1948. The event will be celebrated from February 10 to 17, with the opening of the Parliament of Ceylon on February 10, under the Independence Act, by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, acting on behalf of His Majesty the King.

The Canadian Government will be represented at the ceremonies by Mr. J. D. Kearney, High Commissioner for Canada in India.
