

P R E S S R E L E A S E



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The Department of External Affairs released today a message of welcome from the Prime Minister of Canada to the President of the Marquette Committee, Senator Louis Ternynck. The message which was delivered Saturday afternoon by Mr. Fournier, Minister of Public Works, reads as follows:

"Sir:

"I have great pleasure in extending, on behalf of the Government of Canada and in my own name, a heartfelt welcome to your delegation which has come to Canada to commemorate with us the tercentenary of the heroic deeds of Father Marquette and of the holy Canadian martyrs.

"Those pioneers of western civilization in North America remain for us most valued examples whose undaunted courage and broad vision stand as a continuing inspiration to the whole Canadian nation.

"As we recall the discoveries made by Father Marquette, a son of old France, who was assisted by Louis Joliet, a son of New France, we are particularly touched by the gesture of your delegation in associating its tribute with our own and giving new evidence of the close fellowship which exists between France and Canada.

"I feel sure that your pilgrimage to Canada can only strengthen our close ties with France and will enable you to realize how much at one we are in our ideals.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Louis S. St. Laurent

The Marquette Committee consists of a group of some forty French delegates who are making a pilgrimage to Canada to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Mississippi by Father Marquette and of the founding of the Jesuit Missions of Huronia in the vicinity of Midland, Ontario. This group includes several members of the French Senate and Chambre des Députés, as well as members of French universities and the press. The French Foreign Minister, Mr. Robert Schuman, proposes to join this group at the celebrations to be held in Midland, Ontario, on the 16th and 17th of September. A Canadian reception committee is composed of Senator Thomas Vien, T. Taggart Smyth, Father Pouliot S.J., Gerald Ryan, and others.