

SPEECH BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN, AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE
CHAIR AND CENTRE OF CANADIAN STUDIES AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY,
EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 21, 1975

It is conventional courtesy, on an occasion such as this, to begin by expressing pleasure with the company and surroundings, and gratitude to the hosts who have invited one to participate; and this is such a rare occasion in the relationship between Scotland and Canada as well as between the United Kingdom and Canada, that I am tempted to go beyond the conventional. However, as a Nova Scotian with ancestry possessed of an average amount of Scottish canniness, I appreciate the Scot's ability to discount inflated rhetoric! So I intend to resist any temptation to teach my grandmother how to make porridge.

We in Canada, however, do take some pride today in maintaining the various heritages that came to us from Europe. In Cape Breton, on an occasion like this, we still say "S mor mo thoileachadh a bhi an seo am measg dhaoine chairdeil, uasal ionnsaichte," that is, "Great is my delight to be here among friendly, noble and learned people". Or, in our country's other official language, "Quel plaisir de se retrouver parmi des amis au coeur si noble et généreux à l'esprit si savant".

I am most grateful to you, Sir Hugh⁽¹⁾ and to all the others concerned with this event at this historic and honoured university for the warm reception extended to all of us from Canada. May I also congratulate Professor Drummond for the excellence of his inaugural lecture. He has done honour to himself and to Canada this afternoon. He has also launched officially this exciting new instrument for improving understanding and expanding communications between our two countries in a way most promising for the future.

That the first chair and Centre of Canadian studies in the United Kingdom should be in Scotland is in no way surprising.

There are the strongest of ethnic and cultural bonds between our country and this region of the United Kingdom.

I myself represent Nova Scotians of varied Scottish ancestry in our Parliament, but there are also the French-speaking descendants of the Fraser Highlanders in Quebec; the descendants of Scottish settlers of Glengarry in Ontario; the

(1) Sir Hugh Robson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University.