



Advance Text of Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to be delivered on the occasion of the Eleventh Centennial of the Arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia (Royal York Hotel, Toronto, June 29, 1963).

FOR RELEASE AT 8:00 P.M., EDT.
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1963.

I am happy and honoured to be with you this evening as you commemorate the Eleventh Centennial of the Arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia. I want to congratulate you most sincerely for the magnificent demonstration of faith which has been so evident throughout your Jubilee programme this weekend. It has been a fine Jubilee and a source of real inspiration to all who have participated.

I have come here to pay tribute to the many peoples of Slovakia and of Eastern Europe now living in Canada. By your spirit, your culture and your character, you are giving much to Canada. We are proud to count you among our citizens, because you are making a great contribution to our national life.

Situated in the very heart of Europe, the Slovak lands have figured prominently in history for many centuries. It was in 863 A.D., eleven hundred years ago, that two distinguished sons of a noble family of Thessaly, Cyril and Methodius, arrived in Great Moravia -- the kingdom of the Slovaks, Moravians and Slovenes. -- to establish a missionary church.

With the support and protection of the church as a whole, the first missionary church was destined to bring all of the Slovak peoples to Christianity and to provide the Slovak people with an alphabet, a written language and a body of translations and literature.

As the centuries passed, Slovakia, first as a part of the Holy Roman Empire and subsequently as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, suffered invasions, domination by other nations and political subordination and attempts at cultural subjugation. Through all this the Slovak identity and the spiritual quality of this great people never faltered. It has remained strong and vibrant. The seeds which Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius planted so many centuries ago have grown and brought forth fruits which have adorned the church and inspired all mankind. Slovakia truly had a "rendezvous with destiny".

As we gather here in remembrance of the Eleventh Centenary of the arrival of these two great saints in Great Moravia, we must all be very conscious that many of the spiritual, social, cultural and legal values which they taught are being suppressed today in favour of an atheist, materialist ideology.

Many of you are here today because you refused to yield to this materialism, because you cherished the traditional, spiritual and cultural values of Slovakia and were willing to make material sacrifices for them -- sacrifices which in many cases involved the loss of family, position and fortune, and in all cases meant the loss of friends and homeland. The fact that you have had the strength of character to accept such sacrifices and to rise above the bitterness and anger is a source of great inspiration and a lesson in tolerance to all Canadians.

Throughout history, the quality of tolerance has been one of the essential ingredients of any free society. Tolerance is a fundamental prerequisite for freedom. It is also one of the fundamental sources of Canadian unity.

We recognize in Canada that we are fortunate in being able to base our national existence and our development on diversity of race, culture and language. Tolerance is not merely a necessity, it is a source of national strength.

We have reached the stage in Canada where we can rise above differences of race, culture and creed. We recognize our fellow citizens as human beings with all their essential yearnings, aspirations and short-comings -- and not merely as Catholics, Protestants and Jews or as a member of one or other special group.

Race hatred, religious bigotry and class dissension, anything that questions the right of every citizen of walking in dignity before his God dishonours those guilty of it.

These things have no place in Canada.

In 1960 when the Canadian Parliament was considering the Bill of Rights, we made certain that these ideals were expressed in the preamble. Let me quote it to you:

"The Parliament of Canada, affirming that the Canadian Nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person and the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions;

"Affirming also that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law;

"And being desirous of enshrining these principles and the human rights and fundamental freedoms derived from them, in a Bill of Rights which shall reflect the respect of Parliament for its constitutional authority and which shall ensure the protection of these rights and freedoms in Canada: ..."

We recognize that between those of the various Christian faiths there are many differences. But today when Communism is our common enemy, those of us who share a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being must not allow ourselves to be weakened by petty jealousies and small controversies that only serve to divide us. We are united in one overwhelming fundamental fact; that is, that communist atheism is repugnant to anyone who believes that there is a spiritual pattern and purpose in man's life.

There is a paramount need today for peoples of all faiths to stand fast against Communism's negation of faith. The Communist creed threatens all people. No one knows that better than the men and women who have come from Slovakia.

To combat the Communist threat, men and women of goodwill all over the world must draw closely together in tolerance and co-operation. We must reaffirm our concern for the spiritual values which alone give purpose and dignity to life.

Throughout history, men have attempted to create states and mold societies in which the state was the ultimate end in itself and the dignity of man and the divinity of God were denied. We have seen these systems, the empires of the Caesars and the Hitlers, come and go.

The materialistic Marxism that now confronts us can have no enduring appeal to peoples nurtured in an atmosphere of faith and freedom, certainly none that can assail the great spiritual heritage of Slovakia.

The truth of this statement is reflected in the efforts and sacrifices made by so many of the people of Eastern Europe who have refused to submit to the evils of Communism. You have confirmed the historic truth that no regime, no matter how great the armies which support it, can dare to ignore the

rights and aspirations of its people.

There is not today the freedom in the countries of Eastern Europe that their peoples yearn for. As the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Mr. Pearson, has stated many times, we live in a world in which many peoples are enslaved by communist imperialism which forces a materialistic ideology upon them and denies them their fundamental and precious freedoms. This can never be acceptable to Canadians or to democratically-minded people.

The task of the free nations of the West is to act with wisdom, patience and determination in pursuing policies which will hasten greater freedom for individuals in these nations.

There have been those who, in their abhorrence of the Communist system, advocate a war of liberation to remove the yoke of Communism from the peoples of Eastern Europe. Others have suggested that we should attempt to isolate Eastern Europe completely from any contacts with the free world, ^{that we should not recognize their governments,} that we should refuse to trade with them and to have no cultural interchanges.

There is another course -- a middle course -- which maintains that there should be no compromising of principles between Christianity and the materialistic ideology, but it also recognizes that we should recognize and encourage positive developments in even the most oppressive regimes. Was not this direction greatly strengthened by the encyclical "Pacem in Terris" of His Holiness Pope John XXIII, whose passing the whole world mourns. Let me quote a passage to you from this great document:

"Recent progress of science and technology has profoundly affected human beings and influenced men to work together and live as one family. There has

been a great increase in the circulation of ideas, of persons and of goods from one country to another, so that relations have become closer between individuals, families and intermediate associations belonging to different political communities, and between the public authorities of those communities. At the same time the interdependence of national economies has grown deeper, one becoming progressively more closely related to the other, so that they become, as it were, integral parts of the one whole economy. Likewise the social progress, order, security and peace of each country are necessarily connected with the social progress, order, security and peace of all other countries."

Is there not great wisdom in these words.

I believe that John XXIII is destined to become a great figure in history. In his few short years as Pope, he managed to inspire peoples of all faiths in every corner of the world. Through his quiet, humble nature and his deep spiritualism, he has greatly enriched all mankind.

We, in the West, must remain strong, united and alert to both the dangers and opportunities of the world we live in. We must be cautious and patient, but at the same time we must maintain a positive and dynamic approach.

We must not be put on the defensive. We are Christian nations. We of the western civilization believe in the dignity of the individual and in his right to freedom of thought, expression and worship. We believe that states and societies exist only to promote the welfare of the individual, and that no man or party stands above the law or above truth and God.

These are ideals which are far more revolutionary and permanent than any materialistic ideology. and as such

creeds prove themselves bankrupt, these permanent values must reassert themselves as they have done through the ages.

This evening, as we look back through eleven centuries of history to commemorate and pay our tribute to the lasting work of Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius, we must rededicate ourselves to the propagation of their message. We, in the democracies, must regain and strengthen the spiritual values which are the very core of our democratic systems.

By working to preserve and strengthen the great traditions of Slovakia, the Slovak people of Canada are giving heart and pride and hope to their motherland. You are also making a new and direct contribution to our Canadian culture.

At this point in human history, while the fate of these beautiful and fertile Eastern European lands shocks mankind, these noble Slovak people, champions of Christian chivalry and spiritual heirs of Saints Cyril and Methodius, have remained faithful in adversity. We are filled with admiration for your qualities.

We congratulate you. And we rejoice with you -- for a Jubilee means rejoicing -- that you have kept the faith. In your faith, as the record of the past eleven hundred years so amply testifies, you will find the solace, the light and the courage to face the mystery of human destiny.