



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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No. 54/12 PRIME MINISTER'S RADIO BROADCAST FROM KARACHI

An address by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, to the people of Pakistan, delivered by radio, on February 19, 1954.

I am very happy to be in Pakistan. I hope that my presence here will be regarded as a sign of the warm and friendly feelings of the people of Canada toward the people of Pakistan. I am indeed grateful for this opportunity of speaking to you, and I would like first of all to tell you how deeply I have been touched by the friendliness which, since my arrival, I have everywhere encountered. I bring you in return warm greetings from the Canadian people.

For many years I have wanted to visit your country. I am very glad that at last I am able to repay the visit with which your Quaid-i-Millat the late Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, honoured us in 1950. It was my privilege to meet him on more than one occasion. Like all Canadians, I held him in great respect for the statesmanlike leadership he gave to Pakistan in its earlier years.

It is also my privilege to enjoy the friendship of your present Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali, whom I knew well when he was High Commissioner for Pakistan in Ottawa, the Canadian capital. I can assure you that he made a great many friends there, both for himself and for Pakistan.

New Nation

Mr. Mohammed Ali would, I think, be the first to tell you that Canadians have been keenly interested in your country ever since you achieved your independence. The inheritors of an ancient culture, you have set out with vigour and determination to build a new nation. Perhaps this reminds us of the qualities which have been required of us Canadians in developing our own country -- for Canada, with its own cultural heritage, is also a new country which looks more to the future than to the past. Like you, we are proud to be pioneers. Of course, Pakistan and Canada have much else in common -- certainly not the climate, for when I left Canada it was cold and the earth was covered with snow -- but much that matters.

Memorable Words

Your great leader, Quaid-i-Azam, the late Mohammed Ali Jinnah, stated in a speech which he broadcast from Karachi on your first Independence Day in 1947: "The creation of the new State has placed a tremendous responsibility on the citizens of Pakistan. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how a nation containing many elements can

live in peace and amity and work for the betterment of all citizens irrespective of caste or creed. Our object should be peace within and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain cordial friendly relations with our immediate neighbours and with the world at large. We have no aggressive designs against anybody. We stand by the United Nations Charter and will gladly make our full contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world." Those are great aims, and we honour you for the steadfast efforts you have been making, and still are making to fulfil them.

The basic aims of Canadians, I assure you, are essentially the same as those outlined in the memorable words I have quoted. Like you, we seek to give every man, regardless of race or creed, an equal opportunity to pursue the good life and, with the aid of his fellow citizens, to build a strong nation based on world-wide brotherhood. Like you, we Canadians seek to play our part in promoting international goodwill, and in working for the establishment of conditions in which all nations, new and old, may dwell in security and peace. That the Pakistan and Canadian traditions on which these and other common aims are based are somewhat different is certainly not a matter for regret but rather one for rejoicing. The world is the richer for the distinctive characters of different peoples.

Problems

When I reflect on some of the issues which confront the people of Pakistan in the field of national development, I find that our Canadian experience helps us to understand your problems. For example, although Canada is a continuous geographical unit, we have had to concentrate a great deal of attention, especially during our earlier years, on binding together the widely scattered populated parts of our country. For us, as for you, this has presented certain special economic and political problems. Then, too, we Canadians have built our national unity on co-operation between people with various racial, linguistic and religious backgrounds. The two largest groups are those whose mother-tongue is English and those whose mother-tongue is French. As you probably know, I belong to the latter group, but, like all my countrymen, I am first and foremost a Canadian.

When I consider your proposed constitution, and the problems to which its framers have addressed themselves, I am strongly reminded of some of our Canadian constitutional arrangements. Like you, we have had to give much thought to such questions as the division of powers between the federal and state governments, guarantees to minorities, and representation of various units in the central legislature.

Pakistan and Canada share common parliamentary institutions. They both have a respect for the rule of law. Canada and Pakistan have both derived these traditions to a very considerable extent from those of the Commonwealth. As Canada has done you will, of course, modify them to suit your own conditions and requirements.

Our common membership in the Commonwealth is, I am sure, of great value both to our two countries and to the world. The new Commonwealth, in which the Asian members play such an important part, is an association in which Canadians are proud and happy to participate.

Co-operation

But I do not overlook the fact that within the Commonwealth there are differences which at times do cause anxieties. Yet, over and above these differences and, I hope, ultimately contributing to their solution, are ties of true and abiding friendship. These are the intangible bonds which make possible that remarkable association of peoples of different races, colours and creeds, working together on a basis of complete equality, which we call the Commonwealth.

One of the most constructive types of Commonwealth co-operation is economic co-operation under the Colombo Plan. This Plan was born out of the desire of Commonwealth countries to help one another, and out of a splendid concept, new in the history of international relations, that the countries which happen to be more highly developed industrially should co-operate with countries less highly developed in the industrial field in their efforts to improve the economic conditions of their people. I am glad that, in a number of ways, Canada has already been able to co-operate with Pakistan in this field. And I can assure you that we look forward to continuing this co-operation in the years ahead. As they have with the various programmes for assistance under the sponsorship of the United Nations and its agencies the Canadian people have entered into this enterprise with whole-hearted enthusiasm. It will be a particular pleasure for us to welcome in Ottawa next September the delegates from Pakistan and other countries who will attend the meetings of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee.

The Trip

When I leave your national capital I will fly north, passing over your great wheat-growing area to the historic city of Peshawar. While there I will see something of your famous frontier region and then I will fly on to the lovely city of Lahore. I very much regret that the time at my disposal will not allow me to visit East Pakistan, which plays such an important part in the economic and political life of your country. I have heard a great deal about East Pakistan both from the Canadian High Commissioner, who was on tour there recently, and from my colleague Mr. Sinclair, who visited the two parts of Pakistan a few months ago. I wish I could see the great jute-growing areas and the famous city of Dacca and other places in East Bengal. That unfortunately cannot be. But I am glad to be able to tell you that, in addition to the assistance we have been giving and are continuing to give to development projects in West Pakistan, we are now actively considering the provision of equipment for important projects in the eastern part of your country.

Pakistanis

When one thinks of Pakistan, both East and West, one is greatly impressed with the courage and enterprise with which you are tackling your many difficult problems. And the solid progress you are making as one of those new and promising national societies which have lately emerged out of the ancient civilizations of Asia again to enrich the world. Personally, I like to think of the many Pakistani

officials and students who have come to chat with me in my office in Ottawa and of the many Pakistani friends I have both here and in other parts of the world. And I remember the concluding words of your Quaid-i-Millat when he addressed the Canadian Houses of Parliament in 1950. He said: "I am sure that we can look forward to a long period of friendship between our two countries, and that in any joint moral undertaking to promote the welfare of mankind and goodwill and peace among nations, Pakistan and Canada will be more than friends." During the years since he spoke we have, I think, justified his prophetic words and we will, I am sure, be more than friends in the years ahead. I wish only to add, as Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan did on that occasion, "God bless your country and its people".

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