

1 *Toast - Luncheon Honoring Deputy Prime Minister Desai - Indian Embassy - Seph 11, 1967*

MR. DESAI, IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU TO WASHINGTON.

NOT ONLY HAS IT BEEN TOO MANY YEARS SINCE YOUR LAST VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY, BUT I FEEL AN ESPECIALLY STRONG SENSE OF KINSHIP WITH YOU. WE ARE, IN EFFECT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS TOGETHER.

YOUR ANCIENT INDIAN WRITING IN THE POLICY OF SHUKRA (A BOOK WRITTEN IN 300 A.D.) SAYS THIS ABOUT

2

THE DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY: "THE DEPUTY SHOULD ALWAYS ADVISE ... ABOUT THE THING WHICH, THOUGH UNWHOLESOME, HAS TO BE DONE; ABOUT THE TIME WHEN A THING IS FIT TO BE DONE INSTANTLY AND ABOUT A THING WHICH, THOUGH WHOLESOME, SHOULD NOT BE DONE."

I WOULD ADD THAT IT IS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A DEPUTY TO ADVOCATE THAT WHICH IS WHOLESOME EVEN WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE, BUT THE TASK CAN BE JUST

3

AS THANKLESS EITHER WAY.

AS A FINANCE MINISTER, WHO MUST ALLOCATE VERY SCARCE RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A CLAMORING DEMOCRACY, I KNOW THAT YOUR ROLE IS EVEN MORE TRYING THAN MINE. I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU, AND I WELCOME YOU TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF DEPUTIES.

MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES SINCE YOU LAST VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN 1962. WE ARE BOTH

4

MOVING FORWARD, SOMETIMES PAINFULLY, BUT STEADILY AND
IN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK.

LIKE YOU, WE ARE FEELING THE PRESSURE OF RISING
EXPECTATIONS WITHIN OUR COUNTRY. LIKE YOU, WE ARE
SEEING CHALLENGES TO THE GANDHIAN TRADITION OF
NONVIOLENCE, WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED MIGHTILY TO THE CIVIL
RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. LIKE YOU, WE
ARE STRUGGLING TO EXTEND MEANINGFUL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

5

OPPORTUNITY TO ALL OUR CITIZENS.

AMERICANS, LIKE INDIANS, ARE GROPING TOWARD A
SAFER, MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR NATIONS --
DIFFERENCES OF POLICY, ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES, DIFFERENCES
IN OUR PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD. BUT THE UNDERLYING FACTS
OF DEMOCRACY -- FREE DISSENT, AND THE ELECTORAL AND

6

GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES WHICH GO WITH IT -- ARE A
PERMANENT BOND BETWEEN US.

— # # #



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org