



ONTARIO

Greetings from Lt. Governor The Hon. Mrs. Pauline McGibbon

Your Highnesses, as the representative in Ontario for Her Majesty the Queen, it gives me very great pleasure to welcome you and the Begum Salimah to this province, and I am only sorry that your visit with us is not going to be longer, so on behalf of everyone, please come back again to visit your community, a community of people who make such a contribution to this province and to Canada, and please, just come back to see all the rest of us.

Thank You.



Address by the Hon. Norman Cafik Minister of State for Multiculturalism

Your Highness The Aga Khan, Your Highness Begum Salimah, Your Grace Archbishop Carter, Rabbi Plaut, Reverend Fathers and gentlemen, head table guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Before I make a few remarks I would like to read to you a letter that the Prime Minister of Canada handed to me two days ago to be read here tonight in honour of this occasion.

"I am most pleased to convey my warmest greetings to all those attending the banquet in honour of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan The Fourth and Her Highness Begum Salimah. If Canada is to be thanked tonight by the Ugandans I am certain that this gratitude is reciprocal, for the members of the Ismaili sect of the Muslim religion have greatly contributed to the cultural richness of our society. Therefore, I would like to join in the homage paid to His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan The Fourth and Her Highness Begum Salimah and extend to all present my very warmest personal good wishes for a most memorable visit and evening.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliott Trudeau."

Ladies and Gentlemen it's a great honour for me as a Minister of the Government of Canada to be here tonight to assist in paying tribute to the distinguished visitors that we have here in Canada. It is my understanding that part of this evening's celebration is to pay tribute to Canada and to Canadians because we in this country in 1972 received into Canada about 6,000 people from Uganda of Ismaili background after they had been very cruelly expelled from their former homeland by Idi Amin. We in Canada appreciate the gesture of gratitude that is being expressed tonight. But a simple fact of the matter is that gratitude is a two-way street. The 6,000 who came to Canada then, contributed a great deal more than they ever received. On behalf of the Government and on behalf of all Canadians, I want to really thank this community for all that they have done for this country. Indeed they have shared with us their culture, their background, their richness, their traditions, and they have enriched and benefited all of us as Canadians.

Secondly, I wish to thank His Highness The Aga Khan who has contributed a great deal to allowing these 6,000 people who are now Canadians to integrate into our society as quickly as they did. There is no doubt of the efforts that he and his organizations have made here in Canada to provide financial backing and resources to so many who came to a foreign and strange land to help them integrate and become full and proper Canadians along with the rest of us. His work has made their entrance into Canada so much easier and so much better and I want to thank him on behalf of the community in Canada and on behalf of all Canadians.

In addition to this, The Aga Khan has done a great deal for people in need outside of his own community around the world. By his efforts, institutional and personal, in the areas of human rights, human understanding, refugees through the United Nations, and a whole broad range of activities, all of which we can closely identify with because of their human content and his activity in the world at large, he has made this world a better place for many people to live

I want to thank him further for the example of his words to those of the community in Canada when he said to them and to others who live in other lands and in other nations that they may hold onto their traditions and their values and their cultures but they must be first and foremost citizens of their new adopted land. We in this country are not Islamic Canadians or French Canadians or Irish Canadians, we're just plain Canadians who have a background that we are proud of from wherever it may be.

Now I want to say in conclusion that your presence in Canada comes at a time of great change, a time of renewal, a time of national reflection, and a time when we as Canadians have got to learn to put our lofty principles into practice, into the practice of tolerance and human understanding between all of our people. It is a great challenge and I think that the lessons that you have learned in other countries before coming here are lessons that we ourselves can learn from. We look forward to you sharing with us those messages, and that lesson of understanding and to share it with all of us so that we may learn from your misfortunes in the past and be richer as a people and more united as a consequence.

I want to thank all of you for making this your new home and to say that we are as proud to have you here as you are to be here.

Thank you very much.



Ontario

Address by the Hon. Tom Wells Ontario Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs

Your Highnesses, Your Honours, Your Grace, Your Excellencies, Ministers, Your Worship, ladies and gentlemen:

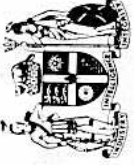
You know, I always find myself at these gatherings following Norm Cafik and he always says everything I want to say, and says it so well, that I am really left with very little to say, but on an occasion such as this, I want to very warmly welcome on behalf of the people of Ontario, particularly, Your Highness, I want to welcome you to this province. You'll have an opportunity to meet our Premier Bill Davis tomorrow and he is looking forward to meeting you, because you are a world figure who has contributed much in your humanity and in your concern to affairs throughout the world.

We would like to tell you that in this province we feel we are very fortunate that many, many people from many varied cultural backgrounds have come here and, they become citizens of this country and of this province, that they have kept those traditions, and those things that they brought with them, and have in doing, enriched our multicultural heritage. We were very proud, and I was very proud, I want to say this as a Canadian, I was very proud that the federal government in 1972 quickly acted to make room in Canada for the Ismaili Muslims who were being ejected from Uganda. I was very happy that many of them have come to the province of Ontario. The contribution that they have made to the industrial and commercial life of this province has been significant. We are pleased that they were here. I am pleased to number many of them as my friends, and I think that it is very important that that action was taken at that time, and incidentally, I might tell you that I am very proud also that the Government of Canada has stepped in quickly and said that we will accept 600 Vietnamese refugees as the United Nations has asked us to do.

And I have a telegram, Norm, going off tomorrow morning, to your colleague, Bud Cullen telling him that here in this province of Ontario, we will be happy to take any of those unfortunate refugees who wish to make Ontario their home and we will do everything possible to make it a good home for them.

An occasion like this is an important one for the Ismaili community and I would like to pay tribute to those of the community who have organized this and many other events for Your Highness and the Begum. This has been a milestone in their life, and it is a very significant event in the life of this province and we want you to know, Your Highnesses, that we treasure your visit here, we hope that you will have many friends, you have friends among your Ismaili community, we hope you will have many more friends when you leave and as the Lt. Governor has said, we hope that you will come back because you will always be welcome here in Ontario.

Thank You.



Address by Mr. Fred Beavis Acting Mayor of Toronto

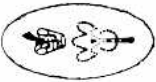
Your Highness, Your Honours, Your Grace, Rabbi Plaut, Reverend fathers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me a very great pleasure to take this opportunity of offering a very warm and cordial welcome to Their Highnesses from the people of the City of Toronto and of Metro Toronto, along with my colleagues, Mayor Flynn and Mayor Morris.

And let me hope that it will be the first of many, many visits to the City of Toronto so that you will be able to enjoy the City the way we enjoy the City of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto.

It is also a rare privilege and distinct honour to ask you all to join with me in a toast to His Highness the Aga Khan and the Begum Salimah, ladies and gentlemen, if you will stand and raise your glasses To Their Highnesses - Bless Them!

Thank You very much.



Address by Mr. Mohamedali Lalani, President of The Regional Council of Canada

Your Highness the Aga Khan, Your Highness Begum Salimah, Your Grace, Your Excellencies, Your Honours, Your Worship, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed an extreme privilege for me to extend to Your Highnesses a very warm welcome to our dynamic city of Toronto and to express to Your Highness, our deepest gratitude for accepting our invitation to this banquet. I also wish to extend a very warm welcome to the Lt. Governor, Hon. Pauline McGibbon, to Your Excellencies, the Honourable Ministers, to the many distinguished and honoured guests, and to you all who are here tonight. We feel most happy and deeply honoured by your presence at this banquet.

For most of you who are here tonight, His Highness and the Aga Khan needs no introduction. Born in Switzerland in 1936, and after attending Le Rosey School, His Highness went to Harvard University and in 1959 he graduated with an Honours Degree in Muslim History. In July 1957, whilst still a student at Harvard, His Highness became the 49th Imam which means - spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslims living in various parts of the world, in Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, the sub-continent of India, Russia, China and more recently, in Western Europe, Canada, and United States of America.

We, as a community, greatly value the spirit of self-help, self-discipline and efficient organization. Under the guidance of the Imam, we set forth to organize the administrative structure of the community which is now embodied in a written constitution. The constitution provides for regional councils which are responsible for the various operations and aspects of the community's life. The National Council for Canada, with headquarters in Vancouver, provides guidance, supervision and policy discussion affecting the community all across Canada. To co-ordinate and supervise the activities of the various national councils in western countries, we have a Supreme Council for Europe, Canada and U.S.A.

Above all the institutions in the Imam, who is the final authority in all matters, within the Regional Council structure, numerous committees such as health, education, employment, vocational training, sports, senior citizens, etc. are appointed to undertake suitable programs for the general welfare of the community. The system operates on a strictly voluntary basis.

The history of Ismaili settlement in Canada takes me back in 1972 when the Ismailis started to arrive here in significant numbers. I can recall with deep gratitude the welcome extended by Canada to the members of our community. Not many of us had been exposed to the North American environment,

however, we had brought with us, three things - the willingness to adapt and integrate, the willingness to work hard, and the desire to fully identify ourselves with Canadians and to make Canada our home. With willing help and assistance from the various government departments and agencies and through the communal institutions especially created by His Highness, Ismailis became self-supporting and reasonably well settled in a very short time. His Highness the Aga Khan has always emphasized to His followers to maintain absolute loyalty to the country of their adoption and to identify completely with the national aspirations and policies of the countries in which they reside. This emphasis has been in concrete form in various different ways. For example, the entire fund collected by the community to weigh the late Aga Khan III against platinum on completing 70 years as the Imam of the Ismailis, was used by His Highness to establish the Platinum Jubilee Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, perhaps one of the first and most modern teaching hospitals in the whole of Africa.

Even more ambitious is the hospital project presently under construction in Karachi, Pakistan. The Aga Khan Medical and Teaching Hospital which will have a capacity of 700 beds and produce 100 doctors a year, will be completed in 1982, at a cost of over \$130 million. It is expected that this hospital will be of the highest standard possible and will perhaps be one of the most modern and best-equipped hospitals in that part of the world.

We are deeply moved by the keen interest taken by Her Highness Begum Salimah in the health, education and welfare activities of our people. On this brief tour of Canada, she has visited hospitals and schools in Vancouver, Montreal and now in Toronto, meeting the young, as well as the infirm and elderly. Your Highness's concern for the progress of the community in the field of health and education is deeply appreciated. We are indeed most fortunate in having Your Highness with us in Canada and sincerely hope that you will visit us again in the very near future.

Islam maintains that material progress without spiritual well-being is meaningless. It is the spiritual life that is eternal and therefore, much more significant. The Imam, as our spiritual leader, devotes a great deal of His time in guiding His followers towards spiritual well-being. His Highness has placed much emphasis on progressive spiritual advancement through self-discipline as on material progress through purposeful and responsible action.

The Ismailis are extremely fortunate in having the Imam of the time to guide them, to help them in both worldly and spiritual matters and help them remain a strong and united community. In Canada, our settlement has been a fairly recent one. We hope, however, that under your guidance, Your Highness, the Canadian Ismailis will develop deep roots in Canada and will become known as a progressive, civic-minded community that has a true loyalty to their new country of adoption.

Finally, on behalf of all the Councils and the community, I wish to express our very deep gratitude to Your Highnesses for visiting us in Canada and we sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we will have the privilege of welcoming you again with the entire family.

To Your Excellencies, Your Grace, Your Honours, Your Worship and all distinguished guests here tonight, we wish to extend our very deep gratitude for accepting our invitation to this banquet and for honouring us by your presence.

Thank You.