



**An Address delivered by Senator the Hon. Timothy Hamel-Smith,
President of the Senate, at the E-Parliament Conference 2012, (Italy) in
celebration of the International Day of Democracy on Saturday 15th
September, 2012.**

What will I do today to foster peace in this world?

What an honour it is to address you on this International Day of Democracy on the very important theme of Peace and Tolerance. Remarkably this opportunity arises as we come to an end of our World E-Parliament Conference 2012 where representatives of some 151 Parliaments, International Organizations, Governments, Universities and Other Organizations and Institutes are gathered in Rome, the Eternal City.

Being in Rome I thought it fitting that we recall the words of the late Pope John Paul the Sixth "If you want Peace then work for Justice".

So often as individuals we wonder "What can I do to foster Peace in the world"? It all seems beyond our capabilities, but what each one of us, individually and collectively, does today has a ripple effect which spins out in ever widening circles which ultimately touches the lives of people whom we do not even know and to places that we have never been.

I am reminded of this year's theme chosen by Rotary International's new President, Sakuji Tanaka, as he asked Rotarians to build Peace Through Service when he said:

"Peace is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in

many simple ways."

Indeed I am convinced that if each of us is mindful of our words and actions as we fulfil our duty as Parliamentarians we will generate a Tsunami of peace which will engulf and transform the world.

And how should we work for Justice? The late Pope Paul the Sixth tells us that we must each endeavour to enable every person to fulfil his or her human potential and in relation to our duty to the wider world he said:

"This dutyis a three-fold obligation: 1) mutual solidarity—the aid that the richer nations must give to developing nations; 2) social justice—the rectification of trade relations between strong and weak nations; 3) universal charity—the effort to build a more humane world community, where all can give and receive, and where the progress of some is not bought at the expense of others. The matter is urgent, for on it depends the future of world civilization."

Perhaps our presiding officers in each of our Parliaments should be inquiring of us at the commencement of each Sitting of Parliament "What will I do today to foster Peace in the World?"

As I end, may I on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago encourage each one of you to be an Ambassador for Peace so that working together for Peace and Justice we may transform our World.

Thank you