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depended upon the preservation of the freedom of Britain. It is our greatest pride, as it is the greatest pride of other British nations represented here, that when, for so long a time, you alone bore the brunt of the attack, we stood with you in arms against the might of Nazi Germany. The free nations of the world can never forget that it was the indomitable resistance of the people of Britain that bought the precious time for the mobilization of the forces of freedom around the globe.

The Strength of Britain

Britain has also been an example to the world of the organization of a free people for a common task. You have astonished the world by the marvels of your industrial production and by the skill and efficiency of your workers. You have never lost your faith. A new energy, a new confidence have been generated in your people. These will endure. And your faith, tested and tried in the fires of affliction, will be firmer and stronger than it has ever been.

When victory is won, you will still possess the same initiative, vigour and endurance; the same skills of hand and brain; the same qualities of mind and spirit. These have enabled the people of Britain to make a contribution to the winning of the war which, man for man, no other nation has surpassed. In peace as in war, these qualities will remain. In the building of a better world after the war Britain will be able, by the force of her example, to give the same leadership that she has given in the waging of war.

The Spirit Underlying Canada's War Effort

It is, however, not of Britain but of Canada that I am expected to speak on this occasion. I should like, therefore, if I may, to speak to you particularly of the spirit of Canada, as exemplified in Canada's war effort. I do this with less embarrassment as a like spirit, I know, animates the war efforts of all the nations united in a common allegiance to the Crown. I should like to speak, as well, of what that spirit signifies for the future of the British Commonwealth and of its relation with other nations in the building of a new world order.

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In speaking of Canada's war effort it is not my intention to describe our contributions to the present world conflict primarily in terms of men and materials. What I should like to refer to are certain aspects which, viewed collectively, reveal the spirit of the Canadian people.

A Voluntary Effort

I place first the aspect I regard as most significant. Canada's war effort is a voluntary effort. It is the free expression of a free people. Like the other nations of the Commonwealth at war to-day, we entered the war of our own free will; and not as the result of any formal obligation. Ours was not primarily a response to a call of blood or race. It was the outcome of our deepest political instinct—a love of freedom and a sense of justice.

As our decision was a voluntary decision, so the effort of our people in carrying on the war has been a voluntary effort. In Canada, as in other countries, controls and restrictions have been imposed in order to prosecute the war with vigour and efficiency. But at every stage these measures have received the overwhelming support of the Canadian people.

Canada's population numbers eleven and a half millions. Three-quarters of a million of our finest young men are serving in the armed forces. This military demand on our manpower resources has not prevented our country from doubling its pre-war production. Thanks to the skill and devotion of our men and women, Canada is a granary, an arsenal, an aerodrome, and a shipyard of freedom. Our country has become increasingly proud of the fact that every fighting man from Canada serving across the seas, on the seas and in the air is a volunteer. We can say, in very truth, that our effort in this war is a voluntary effort.

An Immediate Effort

Canada's decision to enter the war was an immediate decision. When, in 1939, the last hopes of peace were fading from the world, I announced that, if Britain took up arms in the defence of freedom, our government would ask Parliament to place Canada at Britain's side. When war came, there was no hesitation. As soon as Parliament could act, Canada was at war.