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**Address by Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King
Prime Minister of Canada**

Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, Mr. Speaker, My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

When I received from you, Prime Minister, the invitation to address members of both Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, I found myself at a loss for words in which to acknowledge so high an honour. Your kindness in presiding on this occasion, your words of introduction, the traditions and associations of Westminster, and the presence in such numbers of the Lords and Commons add greatly to my sense of obligation.

I am only too well aware of all that it means to be the guest of the people of Britain, and to be speaking to them, and to others, from the heart of the British Commonwealth and Empire, at this moment of supreme crisis in human affairs. Your friendship and mine over many years of peace, and our close companionship throughout the years of war, to which you have made so kind a reference, afford me a support I greatly welcome in addressing this distinguished assembly.

As to my part in Canada's entry into the war, it was but the discharge of the responsibility which was mine to give expression, in a decisive hour, to the will and spirit of the Canadian people, and to serve their highest interests.

Four years have now passed since you, Prime Minister, accepted the leadership of the people of Britain and the leadership of the cause of human freedom. You and your colleagues have led this country, and the cause for which it stands, from the dark days of extreme peril, to this hour when at last the light is beginning to break. It is a source of confidence throughout the free world that you are continuing your leadership with a vision and a courage which have already become a legend.

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I recognize that, for me, this occasion is designed as a welcome to Canada's representative at the meeting of Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth. For the high compliment being paid Canada to-day, I should like to express my gratitude and pride.

I know that the welcome you accord to me is equally heartfelt and generous towards the representatives of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. I should like to say to Mr. Curtin, Mr. Fraser and Field Marshal Smuts how great is the admiration of the people of Canada of their leadership, and of the heroic part which their countries have taken in this war. I should also like to say to them how glad I am that our presence in London at this time affords to us all not only exceptional opportunities of conference with the Prime Minister of Britain and his colleagues, but of making clear to the world the oneness of the nations of the Commonwealth in the winning of the war and in seeking international co-operation after the war.

Greetings from Canada

Perhaps I may be allowed to convey a special message from the people of Canada to the people of Britain.

No memory of happiness in the past is more cherished than the recollection of the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen. In Canada, as in Britain, the years of war have heightened the admiration and increased the affection felt by men and women everywhere for our King and Queen. We have been inspired by their courage and devotion in sharing the dangers and sorrows of the people. In all the nations of the Commonwealth, their example has deepened the meaning and significance of our common allegiance to the Crown.

The heroic endurance of the people of Britain is ever present in our minds. We shall never forget your resolution in the darkest days of the war. Nor shall we ever cease to remember the determination with which, amid destruction of your homes and in peril of your lives, you, the men, women and children of Britain, have continued to carry on your work and to maintain your confidence in the future. Clearly the maintenance of human freedom has