

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

October-December, 1940

(A) HIS MAJESTY THE KING

TEXT OF CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BROADCAST BY HIS MAJESTY, DECEMBER 25, 1940.

In days of peace, the feast of Christmas is a time when we all gather together in our homes, young and old, to enjoy the happy festivity and good will which the Christmas message brings. It is above all the children's day, and I am sure that we shall all do our best to make it a happy one for them, wherever they may be.

War brings, among other sorrows, the sadness of separation. There are many men in the forces away from their homes to-day, because they must stand ready and alert to resist an invader, should he dare to come, or because they are guarding the dark seas, or pursuing the beaten foe in the Libyan desert.

Many family circles are broken. Children from English homes are to-day in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. For not only has the manhood of the whole British Commonwealth rallied once more to the aid of the Mother Country in her hour of need, but the peoples of the Empire have eagerly thrown open the doors of their homes to our children so that they may be spared from the strain and danger of modern war.

And in the United States also, where we find so many generous and loyal friends and organizations to give us unstinted help, warm-hearted people are keeping and caring for many of our children till the war is over.

But how many more children are there here who have been moved from their homes to safer quarters.

To all of them, at home and abroad, who are separated from their fathers and mothers, to their kind friends and hosts, and to all who love them, and to parents who will be lonely without them: from all in our dear island, I wish every happiness that Christmas can bring. May the New Year carry us toward victory and to happier Christmas days when everyone will be at home together in the years to come.