C 204405



FREEDOM OF DERBY

L) The resolution of the Council to confer the Freedom on the Prime Minister of Canada was passed on May 3, 1944 (when Mr. King was in London).

The recipients were to be the Prime Ministers of the four Commonwealth Governments; together with the then Ambassadors in London of China, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R. The resolution speaks of being "in recognition of the eminent services being rendered to the Allied cause".

- 2) Invitation acknowledged by Prime Minister from London on May 4, 1944, explaining he would probably not be in the United Kingdom on the day fixed for the ceremony (a deputy would therefore represent him).
- 3) The ceremony of conferring of the Freedom was on October 11, 1944, when the Prime Minister was represented by the High Commissioner for Canada, (Mr. Massey).
- 4) The Crown Derby casket which accompanied the scroll of presentation was forwarded to Canada and was delivered to the Prime Minister on November 22, 1944.
- 5) The Freemen's Roll is to be brought to London on Wednesday, May 29 for signature by the Prime Minister (2:30 p.m.)

 The delegation will be

Mr. Alderman Armstrong (who was Mayor of Derby, 1944) Mr. Alderman Johnson

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Mr. C. Ashton, Town Clerk

Note: The Derby County Football Team have lately won the F.A. Cup Championship, which is highly regarded as a sporting honour.

J. A.G.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950, MG 26 J 4, Volume 295, pages C204103-C204860

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