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The honour which you do me this evening is one in which the people of Canada have some share. It is through them, and through the confidence expressed in general elections since 1921, that I have been entrusted with the office of Prime Minister for now almost nineteen years. No one would, I think, lightly value the associations of those years, which are by this evening's gathering brought to a crowning peak. Over those years there have been sunshine and shadow. There have been uneasy years - years of economic depression and of uncertain peace. There have been years of war - years of the upbuilding of our strength, the pouring out of great stores to meet material needs, and the marks of sacrifice in the high calling of the world's freedom. There may now be anxious years - years in which we may ask ourselves at what price victory has been attained, and at what charges peace in our time may be made secure.

But in all these years, as my presence in London on this day well attests, there has been friendship and kindness and understanding, all of which spring from the resolute and sturdy hearts of the people of Britain. It is now nearly fifty years since I first visited England and nearly forty years since I was first in this country on an official mission.

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