

one must not forget the earlier Australian contributions to the battles of the western desert, at a moment when the Axis threat in North Africa was very real and constant. The fighting men of Australia have served on many fronts. They held firm on many an embattled front, when the fortunes of war seemed hardest. They will have a foremost place in the eventual assaults upon the far-flung conquests of Japan.

Mr. Curtin's main pre-occupation in office has been with the waging of the war and in maintaining at its highest pitch the total war effort of the people of Australia. In welcoming him today to the capital of Canada, we join in honouring that effort of the people of Australia. We welcome Mr. Curtin also as a leader in the great fight of the freedom-loving nations of the world, and in the confident hope that the efforts of all free peoples, joined in the comradeship of war and the vision of the future, will combine to build a better world than any we have so far known.

I shall, I am sure, be speaking for the people of Canada as a whole in extending to Mr Curtin the heartiest of welcomes, and in wishing him, as he continues on his homeward journey, good luck and Godspeed.