PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

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May 19, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs has released the text of a message of congratulations which the Prime Minister of Canada has requested the Canadian Ambassador to China, the Honourable Thomas Clayton Davis, to convey to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on the occasion of his inauguration as President of the Republic of China on May 20. The message reads:

The election by the National Assembly of a President of the Republic of China under the new Constitution will be a source of satisfaction and pride in all countries where representative government is cherished. I send hearty contratulations to Your Excellency upon being elected as the first President of the Republic, and cordial greetings and warmest of good wishes to you on behalf of the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of Your Excellency's inauguration.

(Signed) W. L. Mackenzie King.

Congratulations were also sent to General Li Tsung-jen who is being inducted as Vice-President of China in the same ceremony.