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CONTENTS

Canada Acclaims President de Gaulle	1
Visit of Nepalese King	3
Historic House Restored	3
Dairy Price Support	3
Regional Price Indexes	4

TCA Jet-Liners	4
Oil and Gas Regulation Changes	5
Veteran Ships Retired	6
Canadian Room for WMO	6
RCAF Overseas Donates Blood	6

CANADA ACCLAIMS PRESIDENT DE GAULLE

"Fifteen years ago, the Canadian people welcomed the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic," said Prime Minister Diefenbaker during a state luncheon held at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa on April 19 in honour of President Charles de Gaulle. "Earlier in the war, we had acclaimed the President of the French Committee of National Liberation. Today, we welcome the President of the French Republic and Community. Now as before, however, it is to General de Gaulle that we offer our respect and admiration. We are happy to welcome you, as well as Madame de Gaulle, who represents, in our eyes, the women of France with all their fine qualities of the heart and mind." The following is a translation of the body of Mr. Diefenbaker's speech, which was given in French:

"...Mr. President, when you visited London earlier this month, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who is our Queen, said to you that Britain and France were joined to Canada and the United States by ties of history, culture and language.

"May I illustrate how truly and unforgettably Her Majesty's words applied to Canada?

"Only a few acres from where you sit now, Mr. President, walked the sons of France, who, more than three centuries ago, began this nation's days -- explorers like Samuel de Champlain, to whose memory stands a monument on a nearby cliff, and missionaries like the immortal Jean de Brébeuf, who on his way to martyrdom camped for three days only a few

miles from this spot; and those equally heroic souls, Father Gabriel Lalement, and Father Jogues.

"These were the men, Mr. President - and there were many others - who brought to this land and carried to its farthest frontiers the eternal verities of civilization - the men who in regions of darkness and terror and awful solitude endured for France and their faith - the men of whom the historian, Parkman wrote:

'Men steeped in antique learning, pale with the close breath of the cloister, here spent the noon and evening of their lives, ruled savage hordes with a mild parental sway and stood serene before the direst shapes of death.'

"These were the men - the sons of France, of our first Canadian story - their treasurable contribution in our memories forever.

"We remember, and will remember forever, that dread hour in 1940 when you, a lonely and desperate figure of destiny, clarified the world for France and for freedom - that clarion call which, as Her Majesty said truly to you in London, matched the winged words of Sir Winston Churchill.

"And we remember, too, Sir, how in the long dark days which followed, those days when liberty was under siege, those days which tried through and through every quality and mystery of the human spirit, you stood as France incarnate, the valiant trustee of her ancient glory.