

(Translation):

Now, here is the message of condolence to the Queen Mother:

(Text):

Gracieuse Majesté,

Nous, les Communes du Canada, en Parlement assemblés, demandons respectueusement la permission d'offrir à Votre Majesté notre sincère sympathie dans Votre grand deuil et Votre profond chagrin. Nous partageons la douleur et la perte que Votre Majesté éprouve de la disparition de Notre Souverain défunt, le Roi George VI, qui était grandement aimé de tous Ses sujets.

Nous formons des vœux pour que, en ce moment, Votre Majesté soit réconfortée et soutenue par le souvenir de ce que Votre affectueuse compagnie a valu au défunt Roi pendant toute la durée de Sa vie et de Son règne; par la mémoire des services partagés; par la sympathie et par l'affection générales qui entourent Votre Majesté dans Votre grande affliction.

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has expressed correctly the sentiments of every member in the House of Commons when he has said that every Canadian worthy of the name at this time feels a profound sense of loyalty and affection for our new queen. In the addresses which the Prime Minister has read and which it is my privilege to second, there is sympathy, loyalty and hope conveyed to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a profound and vast measure of sympathy and affection for the Queen Mother who shared so completely throughout the years of his reign the great work that was done, not only for us, not only for the commonwealth, but for every free man and woman everywhere by His Majesty King George VI.

As the Prime Minister has said, he was a great man and he was a good man. The Prime Minister spoke of the shock that everyone felt when they were surprised to learn that the king had died in his sleep. That sense of shock and of sorrow was in no way confined to the people of the commonwealth. It was in fact shared in an unexpected degree by all people in the free nations throughout the world, and I am inclined to think also by people who want and desire freedom in those countries which are not now free.

At this time our thoughts are associated with the man who symbolized for us and for the commonwealth that continuing monarchy which year by year has gathered strength and which is the continuing expression of our own form of democracy. He was truly loved by all his people. He was truly admired by the whole free world. I suspect that he was greatly envied by those nations which follow a different pattern of life to that which we do.

He was a man of great courage, not only the courage demanded by the ordinary tests of physical bravery but that greater form

### *The late King George VI*

of courage which was demanded by the tasks imposed upon him which in his particular case were extremely heavy. As a young man he served in the battle of Jutland as a naval officer in A gun-turret of H.M.S. *Collingwood*. In one of the greatest and most terrible naval battles of all time he took his full part and accepted his full share of danger. Then in the later war, when he had assumed the responsibility of the monarchy, he shared without stint the dangers of those who lived in that bastion of freedom. He shared not only the dangers but the privations of men and women to whose fortitude each one of us is greatly indebted today.

As we extend our sympathies to the Queen Mother we recall so well her sweetness and amiability as well as the way in which she expressed on so many occasions her affection for Canada and for the people of this country. We all remember so well that young couple who visited us in the spring of 1939 and left in the mind of every Canadian an intimate impression which carried with it, not only the respect due to the crown but the affection for a man and woman who symbolized the kind of decent life we all wish to preserve.

His life was a triumph of kindness and simplicity. I happened to be in the United States the day after his death and the thing that impressed me profoundly was the fact that the people of the United States seemed to share our sorrow, seemed to feel as we did, and indicated in every way that they regarded his death as their own loss. Of all the things that have been said and written, few could be more moving or strike deeper to the heart than the things that were written in the great publications of the United States and said by their great public men. I believe and I am hopeful that, because of the consciousness that seemed to come to the people of the United States at that time of the deep affections which bring us together, we of the commonwealth may be closer to them at this hour than we have ever been since 1776.

It was extraordinary the way that people throughout the world seemed to be brought together. I doubt if there could be more dramatic evidence of the immense influence exercised by the prevailing spirit of good will which seemed to be so much a part of the king himself than that one of the first countries to announce a period of mourning after his death was Egypt, a country where such bitter things had been said for weeks before and where hatred of everything British seemed to be on every tongue. The very fact that at this hour there seems to be a great measure of tranquillity in Egypt, and that discussions are proceeding in an orderly