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British Prime Minister addresses joint session of Parliament

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Ottawa September 25 for a three-day visit to Canada that also took her to Toronto and Edmonton. The tour was Mrs. Thatcher's first trip to North America since her Conservative government's re-election last June.

The highlight of her Ottawa visit was a speech to a joint meeting of the House of Commons and Senate. Mrs. Thatcher was the first British prime minister to address such a meeting since Sir Harold Macmillan's visit in 1958. Her speech received a standing ovation from members of both Houses.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau introduced the British prime minister, thanking her for her support in the patriation of the Constitution, and urging world leaders to have the "audacity" to work for peace, since there was no greater priority at this time.

Challenge to Parliament

Mrs. Thatcher's challenge to Parliament was that it was "time for freedom to take the offensive". Canada and Britain, she said, are "both great Western democracies, the privileged beneficiaries of a political, social and economic system which is the best that mankind has devised and which has incomparably more to offer to the human spirit than the false ideologies of the un-free world".

"But then let us proclaim that truth together," she continued. "Let us tell the world that freedom is on the march. The democracies have the duty to lead. Should future generations have cause to remember us, let it be not only because we helped to stop the spread of tyranny, but also because we left the human race one step closer to its greatest hope — that one day men the world over shall be free."

Discussions with Mr. Trudeau

Mrs. Thatcher met privately with Prime Minister Trudeau and later with members of his Cabinet. She also paid a



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British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher receives a standing ovation following her speech in Canada's Parliament.

courtesy call on Conservative leader Brian Mulroney. She told reporters that much of her discussions with Mr. Trudeau centred on ways to improve trade and investment between Canada and the United Kingdom. They also talked about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Geneva arms reduction negotiations, President Reagan's new proposals to the Soviet Union for reducing intermediate range missiles in Europe, the situation in Lebanon and the Korean airliner tragedy.

More meetings urged

Mrs. Thatcher also told reporters that, since the constitutional issue had now been settled, the two leaders agreed



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