

President de Gaulle Visits Canada

GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE, President of the French Republic and President of the Community, paid a state visit to Canada from April 18 to 22, during which he was first received in Ottawa by the Governor-General and the Prime Minister and then travelled to Quebec, Montreal and Toronto. He was accompanied by Madame de Gaulle, M. Couve de Murville, the Foreign Minister of France, and other dignitaries.

This was General de Gaulle's third visit to Canada. He had been greeted previously in this country in July 1944 as President of the French Committee of National Liberation and in August 1945 as President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

The President and his party were welcomed to Canada at Ottawa's Uplands Airport at 6:00 p.m. on April 18. During their stay in the capital, he and Madame de Gaulle were the guests of the Governor-General and Madame Vanier at Government House.

The first formal events of the tour were a state dinner and reception in honour of President and Madame de Gaulle on April 18. Next morning, Prime Minister Diefenbaker called on the visitors at Government House for private conversations, which were followed by a meeting with members of the Canadian Cabinet in the Privy Council Chamber. After visiting the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings, General de Gaulle laid a wreath at Canada's National Memorial. The most important public speech of his visit was made by the President at a luncheon given by the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker on behalf of the Government of Canada. The talks between the President and the Prime Minister were resumed in the afternoon, with the participation of the Foreign Minister of France, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the French Ambassador to Canada, and the Canadian Ambassador to France.

Relations between the two countries continue to be excellent and a wide measure of agreement exists on current world issues. President de Gaulle emphasized in a public statement that he was happy to have been able to accept the invitation of the Canadian Government after visiting the United Kingdom and before going on to the United States, thus "strengthening the chain between the free nations whose solidarity is now of capital importance".

On the evening of April 19, President de Gaulle was host at a dinner and reception at the French Embassy. He left Ottawa the following morning for Quebec City, where he was the guest at luncheon of the Lieutenant-Governor and at dinner of the Premier. During the day, President de Gaulle visited Laval University and the City Hall. On April 21, he attended a luncheon in Montreal, given by the Mayor, after a call at the City Hall. Later in the day, in Toronto,