



DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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Thursday, February 7, 1952.

Canada Mourns; Proclaims Elizabeth Queen: Ottawa, February 6 (CP) -- A saddened Canada, plunged into deep mourning by the death of its beloved King George VI, today proclaimed Princess Elizabeth as Queen Elizabeth II.

The capital was shaken and shocked this morning by the news that the King this country had come to know better than any previous sovereign had died during the night.

The Cabinet, members wearing black ties of mourning, went into emergency session at noon to adopt a proclamation formally announcing the death of the King and declaring the accession of his daughter as Queen Elizabeth II.

The proclamation was adopted about 12.10 p.m., E.S.T., and became effective between 3.15 and 3.30 p.m., when it was signed by Chief Justice Thibaubeau Rinfret, Administrator in the absence of a Governor General.

As the sorrowing news of the King's death spread across the land, flags came down to half-mast in the capital and throughout the country in tribute to the monarch who led Canada and her sister-nations in the Commonwealth through 15 years of war and uneasy peace.

In the streets, black-bordered newspapers reported the King's death and the Queen's accession. On the air, the CBC banned all commercials until midnight tomorrow and broadcast only news bulletins and appropriate music.

Messages of sympathy were cabled to the Royal Family and tributes to the greatness, the dignity and the nobility of the King began to flood news service wires from across the country. The United Church of Canada proclaimed next Sunday a memorial day and other churches were expected to follow suit.

The official word of the King's death came to Canada in a cable to Mr. Justice Rinfret, as Administrator, from the King's private secretary in London.

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, told reporters today that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, who is flying to London tonight en route to an Atlantic Pact meeting in Lisbon, will attend the funeral of King George VI.

Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Canada's Governor General designate and a personal friend of the King, has cancelled plans to sail for Canada this Friday and also will attend the funeral.

Mr. St. Laurent expressed profound sorrow at the death of King George VI and informed Queen Elizabeth II of Canada's earnest desire to support and uphold her "in the great responsibilities you now have assumed."

Deep sympathy for the loss of the King was expressed in two separate messages sent by the Prime Minister to the new Queen and to the King's widow.

The day of the King's funeral will be proclaimed a day of national mourning for Canada, Mr. St. Laurent announced tonight in a statement.

Chief Justice Thibaubeau Rinfret pledged allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, and paid tribute to King George VI as a "great constitutional Monarch."

Mr. Garson On Work Of UN Assembly: Paris, February 6 (CP) -- The Minister of Justice, Mr. Garson, said tonight that the United Nations is worth a longer trial than it has been given so far.