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Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the death of Field Marshal Smuts:

"For half a century the name of Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts has signified to people all over the world two great principles in human affairs - political reconciliation and democratic constitutional progress. In South Africa, the leadership which he gave to the process by which elements in the community of English and Dutch origins were drawn together for their common welfare has won universal respect and admiration. Beyond the borders of his own country, he won equal respect, for himself and for his fellow countrymen, by the part which he played in world affairs.

"In two world wars against totalitarian aggression, in the great development toward freedom within the framework of the modern Commonwealth, and in the efforts to develop international co-operation on an even wider basis through the League of Nations and subsequently through the United Nations, Field Marshal Smuts was an active, inspiring figure. Breadth of judgment and steadfastness of purpose, in success or in adversity, were two of the characteristics of great statesmanship with which he was particularly endowed.

"The people of Canada will share sincerely in the general sorrow at his passing, and we extend to the people of South Africa our deep sympathy in their loss."