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VISIT OF GENERAL DEGAULLE

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There is, I believe, one reason above all others for welcoming General deGaulle to the capital of Canada today. General deGaulle has been a soldier all his life. When the Government of his native France wavered and collapsed in the black and anxious days of 1940, it was he who first rallied the forces of France still able to fight against the enemy. From London, from Brazzaville, from Algiers, he has been tireless in the unremitting task of organizing the efforts of the Fighting French to hasten the day of allied victory and the liberation of his homeland. It required courage of a superlative kind, four years ago, to uphold the battered name of France. For General deGaulle there was no surrender; neither was there then, or will there ever be, for the brave men he gathered about him to wage war against the Nazi invaders of France.

The fighting men of the Cross of Lorraine have now fought on many Allied battlefronts. We recall today, with pride in our hearts, the unquenchable spirit of those French soldiers who, under a valiant general, marched from Lake Chad across much of Africa to join in the battles of the Western Desert. We recall the valour of French arms in subsequent campaigns: in North Africa, in Tunisia, in Sicily, and, at this very day, in the battle for the liberation of Italy.