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Prime Minister's Office

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Press Release

June 20th, 1943

On learning of the death of Mr. F. E. H. Groenman, the Netherlands' Minister to Canada, the Prime Minister, Right Honourable Mackenzie King, made the following Statement:

Members of the Government and officials of the Department of External Affairs learned today with deep regret of the passing ~~on~~ <sup>early</sup> ~~Saturday evening~~ <sup>the morning</sup> of Mr. F. E. H. Groenman, the first Minister of the Netherlands to Canada.

When Mr. Groenman came to Ottawa shortly after the outbreak of the war, he brought to his duties a wide range of diplomatic experience gained in China and ~~for~~ South America.

During the period of the war, he was confronted with many exacting problems. He was most helpful to Canada as well as to his own country in working out a solution to these difficulties and in bringing about effective co-operation between the two nations. He was at all times most considerate and helpful.

Unfortunately, in the past year Mr. Groenman suffered ill-health, no doubt largely as a result of strain through the war years.