

VII. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S VISIT TO OTTAWA, AUGUST 25, 1943

On the day following the conclusion of the First Quebec Conference (attended by Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt), President Roosevelt visited Ottawa for one day, August 25, 1943, on the invitation of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Mr. King's secret and personal message to the President had said inter alia "... I am most anxious to have you as the first President to visit Canada's capital. I would have Members of Parliament return to Ottawa to meet you on Parliament Hill, where a few words addressed in the open in front of the Parliament Buildings would be all that would be expected".

The day's programme included the short address (President Roosevelt stood at the top of the steps under the Peace Tower), the President's out-of-door receiving of the diplomatic corps and members of Parliament who had returned to Ottawa; the placing of a wreath on the National War Memorial; lunch privately with the Prime Minister; and a drive around Ottawa and environs, including Kingsmere.

Sources: Department of External Affairs Annual Report 1943
External Affairs Monthly Bulletin, November 1943
Hansard (Session 1944 Vol. III) p.2175
Department of External Affairs files 88(s) and 53-VT-40C