



RT. HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL

Prime Minister 1957-1963

BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES

News Division

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RT. HON. SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME
Leader of H.M. Opposition

It is universally acknowledged that Sir Winston was the greatest leader that this country has ever known. He rallied and inspired our nation in war, but far afield, too, he was accepted by friends and allies as the leader of the free world. We, and they, owe to him our lives, but if he was an incomparable leader in war, he was also a man who was intensely human and shared the emotions of ordinary people and their desire to live their lives in peace and harmony. Many of his visions for a better world, which he expressed in simple and compelling words, will come true, and Winston Churchill above all others will have been the pioneer. I join with the countless millions in sorrow and would like to send my sympathy to Lady Churchill and the family.

Through all the different aspects of his unrivalled experiences, one theme remained constant, his love of Britain and the Commonwealth and his sincere belief in the common purpose of all English-speaking peoples. Great as was his pride in the

845 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10022, Telephone: PLaza 2-8400



RT. HON. HAROLD MACMILLAN

Prime Minister, 1957-1963

The whole world, especially the English-speaking world, has been watching with emotion the closing days of the last of its heroic figures. Churchill's career was in itself a romance. He excelled in many fields, soldier, author, statesman. His has been a life of adventure and hazard, for he was never afraid to put fortune to the test. Great as were the services which he rendered to Britain and the Commonwealth throughout the sixty years of strenuous political life, he stands out in the memories of all peoples throughout the globe as the man who twenty-five years ago rallied resistance to tyranny and aggression. Many still remember the great war speeches. In the occupied countries of Europe they were heard by countless clandestine listeners who saw in them the pledge of their own liberation. Throughout the Commonwealth, in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, as well as through Africa and Asia, his was the voice, he was the man who stood as the defender of their present liberties and future aspirations. The American people were thrilled with generous emotion. Who has ever forgotten the historic reply to Hitler's vainglorious taunt, "Some chicken ... some neck!"?

Through all the different aspects of his unrivalled experiences, one theme remained constant, his love of Britain and the Commonwealth and his sincere belief in the common purpose of all English-speaking peoples. Great as was his pride in the past, greater still was his confidence in the future.

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It was my privilege to work closely with him in those years before the second World War, to serve under him for five long years in the War Government -- years that began with defeat when Britain stood alone, and ended with the final victory of the Grand Alliance. After the war he devoted himself to the maintenance of Atlantic co-operation and the movements for unity and reconciliation in Europe. For these aims he gathered round him many adherents old and new on both sides of the ocean.

Of Churchill the man there are innumerable stories, some true, some apocryphal. But all illustrate the different sides to his character, his very faults proved virtues, his obstinacy could be exhausting to his colleagues. But it was only one side of the medal: on the other was stamped indomitable determination. Born of an American mother -- as I, too, am proud to be -- he has handed on to his successors this passionate belief that the freedom, perhaps even the survival of the civilised world depends on the closest association between the two branches of the English-speaking peoples.

He is gone -- and those who loved him best, great as is our loss, could not have wished his life to be prolonged. Yet to the watching world it has come as a deep shock to feel that that noble heart has ceased to beat.

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RT. HON. LORD MORRISON OF LAMBETH
Member of Wartime Coalition Cabinet

So the nation's darling, Britain's Winston Churchill, has passed away, to the sorrow of us all. He was an extraordinary personality -- he had been in politics a Conservative, he became a Liberal -- the truth is he was not a rigid party politician, indeed I have often said he was in a sense a coalition in himself -- some days he was rather like a Conservative aristocrat, other days he was like a Liberal, and other days he had a sentimental sympathy for the poor that made him something in the nature of a sentimental Socialist, and it was a clever man who could tell on which day he was either the one thing or the other.

He was chosen as Prime Minister in 1940 and therefore as war leader of the British -- not by any political party, even though the Labour Party favored him -- no, he was chosen by the people, by the British nation, without a vote, without a plebiscite, without any formal thing. We all knew that the people wanted him, and so he became Prime Minister in a way that does illustrate the extraordinary elasticity of the British constitution. And a great war leader he was. Those speeches that he made were worth a lot in our own country and they were certainly worth a lot in the United States of America. Indeed, of course, he was half-American, his mother was American and he liked this -- he was proud of it, and he was convinced that this helped him enormously in his dealings with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and I have no doubt that it was so. He

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was a great believer in the American Alliance, and I know that it would be Winston Churchill's wish if he were still alive and able to say so -- it would be Winston's wish that the British and the Americans should remain firm friends and march together for the peace and well-being and progress of the world.

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THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, THE RT. HON. THE LORD HARLECH

The death of Winston Churchill is not only a sad but an awesome event -- a great chapter in our human history is ended. For more than half of what he himself called "this terrible twentieth century" Churchill bestrode the world stage. He entered the House of Commons in 1900. He attended it for the last time in July 1964. More than twenty years ago, in the midst of the most destructive war mankind has ever experienced, the ringing voice of Churchill united the peoples of Great Britain and of the United States in the struggle for victory over evil forces. Today his death unites them again in sorrow. Two years ago he was deeply touched by the historic and moving gesture made by Congress when they authorised President Kennedy to proclaim him an Honorary Citizen of the United States. It was a tribute, not only to the cause of Anglo-American unity, to which he devoted such a large part of his life, but also to the deep affection with which he was regarded by all the American people. In accepting this unique honor, Sir Winston said the Atlantic Community is a dream that can well be fulfilled to the detriment of none and to the enduring benefit and honor of the great democracies. The finest memorial that we can grant him is to work in our own lives to ensure that his dream comes true. Other statesmen have been admired and respected by their contemporaries, but very few have been so warmly loved. None of us will look upon his like again. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his noble and devoted wife, Lady Churchill, and to all his family.