

10 Feb. 54

QUEEN AT LUNCHEON IN AUSTRALIA

APPLAUSE AS HM RISES

"MR. PREMIER, I THANK YOU FOR THE VERY KIND WORDS WITH WHICH YOU HAVE PROPOSED MY HEALTH, AND I THANK YOU ALL HERE TONIGHT FOR THE SPONTANEITY OF YOUR RESPONSE.

AS MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE APPROACHED THESE SHORES WE HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH AWARE THROUGH THE RADIO AND THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE GREAT WELCOME WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR US.

WE EXPERIENCED IT FIRST WHEN THE FINE AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON WHICH ESCORTED US IN SYDNEY HARBOUR MET US 650 MILES OUT IN THE TASMAN SEA. AND YESTERDAY IN SYDNEY WE REALISED ----- COULD HAVE EXPECTED. ----- STREETS OF THIS GREAT AND LOVELY CITY, THE CAPITAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AND THE FIRST CLAIMS OF MY AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY -- I SHALL ALWAYS CHERISH.

FOR THAT I WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF NSW. BECAUSE OF THEIR GREAT KINDNESS I HAVE FELT VERY MUCH AT HOME AND AMONG MY OWN PEOPLE FROM THE FIRST MORNING THAT I STEPPED UPON AUSTRALIAN SOIL. (applause)

WHILE THIS WAS A GREAT PLEASURE TO ME IT WAS MUCH OF A SURPRISE (?) BECAUSE MY FATHER AND MOTHER HAVE OFTEN TOLD ME OF THEIR HAPPY EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRALIA YEARS AGO, AND, AS YOU KNOW, MY HUSBAND IS NO STRANGER TO THIS COUNTRY. (applause) HE WAS HERE IN THE WAR AND HAS A GREAT ADMIRATION FOR AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY WHICH WILL TAKE ME FROM ONE SIDE OF THIS CONTINENT TO THE OTHER. IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT DURING THE TWO MONTHS OF MY VISIT I SHALL GET TO KNOW YOU WELL AND KNOW SOMETHING OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND YOUR PROBLEMS.

I LOOK FORWARD WITH KIND ANTIICIPATION TO VISITING YOUR GREAT CITIES, OF

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LEARNING SOMETHING OF YOUR EVER-GROWING INTERESTS AND YR VAST EXPANSES ---
THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH ITS SHEEP IN THEIR MILLIONS, THE --- AND THE WIDE
WOODLANDS AND THE -- COUNTRY TOWNS.

I THANK YOU AGAIN, MR. PREMIER FOR YOUR LONG AND KIND WORDS, AND YOU,
MR. -- AND ALL YOU WHO ARE GATHERED HERE FOR THE WARMTH AND SINCERITY
OF YOUR WELCOME." (applause)

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