

EDOUARD BENEŠ DIES

A brief three years ago, Edouard Beneš returned to a liberated country, whose people welcomed him as a beloved father - for this man, (through two long wars and twenty years of struggling independence) had never failed them.

A fearless patriot, twice fighting as a lonely exile against oppressors of his race, his name became synonymous with freedom, with liberty and the courage of the truly great.

Ever conscious of his country's need for the support of her powerful neighbour Russia, the Czech leader was untiring in his efforts to promote the common cause of peace. He sought a generous friendship, in which his country could play a free, but never a subservient part. But Edouard Beneš dealt with minds unschooled in his ideals of freedom. For him, a treaty of alliance became a writ of bondage - to a man of his free spirit, a death sentence. With Czechoslovakia, the world mourns the passing of a great national leader.