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19.9.51 - No.7.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE 9 O'CLOCK NEWS TONIGHT.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED, BROADCAST OR USED ON CLUB TYPES BEFORE 9.15 P.M. B.S.T. WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1951.

For eighteen months the Government has carried on the affairs of the country with a very small majority in the House of Commons. I consider that the time has now come to ask the electors for a renewal of confidence in the Government and to give it adequate Parliamentary support in order to deal with the important issues with which the country is faced at home and abroad.

I have therefore asked His Majesty the King, for whose speedy restoration to full health we all pray, to grant a Dissolution of Parliament. ^① [The King has been pleased to signify his acceptance of my recommendation that His Majesty should proclaim the Dissolution of Parliament on Friday, 5th October.]

His Majesty's Government have represented to the Lord Chairman of Committees and the Speaker that it would be in the public interest that Parliament, which now stands adjourned, should be called together on Thursday, 4th October. [Ⓚ]

② [In accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, Polling Day will fall on Thursday, 25th October. ³ The new Parliament will be summoned to meet on Wednesday, 31st October, when the first business will be the election of a Speaker and the swearing in of Members, and His Majesty has graciously announced his intention formally to open Parliament on Tuesday, 6th November.

10, DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

[Ⓚ] The Lord Chairman of Committees is summoning the House of Lords and the Speaker is summoning the House of Commons to meet at 11.0 a.m. on that date.

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