

QUEEN MOTHER AT GUILDHALL

100801

S.V!

"I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU, MY LORD MAYOR, FOR YOUR KIND WORDS AND I AM GREATLY TOUCHED BY THE WARMTH OF YOUR WELCOME. I SUPPOSE THERE IS NO ONE OF US WHO RETURNING FROM DISTANT LANDS, DOES NOT FEEL A LIFTING OF THE HEARD AS THE SHORES OF THIS BELOVED ISLAND CAN AT LAST BE DISCERNED. HOME AGAIN WE MAY SAY, AND I THINK THAT NOW WHEN I USE THAT PRECIOUS WORD MY THOUGHTS WILL GO AS WELL TO THOSE WIDE LANDS WHERE I THINK I HAVE LEFT A PART OF MY HEART. [MY JOURNEY HAS TAKEN ME NEARLY 35,000 MILES BY AIR, 31 SEPARATE FLIGHTS AND JUST OVER ~~THE~~ 132 HOURS FLYING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, THE PACIFIC AND THE INDIAN OCEAN, OVER THE WHOLE WIDTH OF CANADA, SOUTH-WEST TO FIJI, SOUTH AGAIN TO NEW ZEALAND AND MORE THAN 4,000 MILES OF FLYING TO COVER THE GREAT ISLAND MASS OF AUSTRALIA] FINALLY ON MY WAY HOME THE COCOS AND MAURITIUS. THOSE TWO OUTPOSTS IN THE WEST INDIAN OCEAN TO ENTEBBE IN AFRICA AND MALTA, MY LAST ~~HALT~~ HALT. THIS INDEED IS A GIRDLE AROUND THE EARTH AND IT WAS A GRIEF TO ME THAT I WAS BY BAD LUCK PREVENTED FROM COMPLETING MY JOURNEY HOME IN THE AIRCRAFT WHICH MY KIND HOSTS HAD SO GENEROUSLY PLACED AT MY DISPOSAL. [I HAVE, MYSELF, SOME EXPERIENCE OF THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF SEEING A DAZZLING SUCCESS SNATCHED FROM ONE EVEN AFTER THE LAST FENCE, AND MY SYMPATHY IS MUCH WITH THE GALLANT CREWS WHO WORKED SO UNCEASINGLY TO COMPLETE THEIR TASK.]

256 ft 28

C.U.

2 [IT IS HARDLY POSSIBLE WITHOUT A PERSONAL CONTACT TO REALISE THE INTENSITY OF WHICH MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH IS CHERISHED BY THOSE WHO I AM SO LATELY SEEING. NO RIGID CONSTITUTION CONFINES THOSE WHO SERVE THIS GREAT FRATERNITY WHICH EMBRACES PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS AND RACES,] MANY OF THEM DIFFERING WIDELY IN TRADITION AND HISTORY. THEY ARE BOUND TO USE ~~THE~~ BURKE'S SPLENDID WORDS BY A CLOSE AFFECTION WHICH GROWS FROM COMMON NAMES, KINDRED BLOOD, FROM SIMILAR PRIVILEGES AND EQUAL PROTECTION. THERE ARE THESE, THOUGH LIGHT AS AIR, ARE AS STRONG AS LINKS OF IRON. I SHOULD LIKE FROM THE GUILDHALL IN THE CITY OF LONDON, THE HEART OF OUR MOTHERLAND TO SEND TO-NIGHT TO ALL THOSE GENEROUS ~~THE~~ FRIENDS FAR AWAY IN DISTANCE BUT VERY CLOSE TO US IN THEIR THOUGHTS, IN OUR THOUGHTS, A MESSAGE OF FELLOWSHIP AND AFFECTION. [IT IS MY BELIEF AND MY PRAYER THAT THE UNITY AND THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH MAY YET PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH MAY BE

3

QUEEN MOTHER AT GUILDHALL - 2

BUILT THAT FOR WHICH WE ALL PRAY TODAY, PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." } 168 ft