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Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat



May 13, 1940

First Speech as Prime Minister to House of Commons

On May 10, 1940, Winston Churchill became Prime Minister. When he met his Cabinet on May 13 he told them that "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." He repeated that phrase later in the day when he asked the House of Commons for a vote of confidence in his new all-party government. The response of Labour was heart-warming; the Conservative reaction was luke-warm. They still really wanted Neville Chamberlain. For the first time, the people had hope but Churchill commented to General Ismay: "Poor people, poor people. They trust me, and I can give them nothing but disaster for quite a long time."

I beg to move,

... this House ... the formation of a Government representing the
...
... a victorious conclusion.

... I received ...
... in the broadest possible ...

... parties, ...
... I ...
... k. A Year Cabinet ...

... The ...
... party Leaders have agreed to serve, ...

...
... His
... Majesty to ...

...
... ly

I considered it in the public interest to suggest that the House should be

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ould be
[REDACTED]

is a serious
undertaking in itself,
[REDACTED]
of my friends
[REDACTED]

is an ordeal of the most grievous kind
[REDACTED]
by sea, land and air, with all our might
and with all the strength that God can give us:
[REDACTED]
I say, [REDACTED], let us go forward [REDACTED] with our
strength."

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