

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."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this House welcomes [REDACTED]
the united [REDACTED] resolve [REDACTED] to prosecute [REDACTED]
Germany to a victorious conclusion. [REDACTED]

On Friday evening last I received His Majesty's commission to form a new Administration. It is the evident wish and will of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] both the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Opposition. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] representing [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fighting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the extreme [REDACTED] and rigour of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] propositions, were tried yesterday.
[REDACTED] His Majesty [REDACTED] I hope to complete [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] my task [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I considered [redacted] e
[redacted] most today. Will speak [redacted] y
[redacted] the powers [redacted]
[redacted] the House. At the end [redacted] e
[redacted],
[redacted]
[redacted] that week will be [redacted]
[redacted]. I now [redacted]
[redacted] declare
confidence [redacted]

[redacted] but it must be remembered that [redacted]
[redacted] we are [redacted]
[redacted] that we have to be
prepared i [redacted] that the right [redacted]
[redacted] have been indicated by my hon. Friends [redacted]
[redacted] to [redacted] hope I may be
[redacted] address the House at any time today. I hope that
[redacted] of my friends and colleagues, or [redacted] the [redacted]
[redacted] make [redacted]
[redacted] as I said to those who have
[redacted] but blood, [redacted] tears and sweat."

[redacted] an ordeal of [redacted] e
[redacted] of struggle and of suffering. [redacted]
[redacted] policy? [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted]
[redacted] of human crime. [redacted] is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? [redacted] r
[redacted] terror,
victory, [redacted] heard the [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] survival. [redacted] British [redacted] o
[redacted] of all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the
[redacted] and impulse of the ages, [redacted] its
[redacted] goal. But I take up my task with [redacted] e. I feel [redacted] r
[redacted] will not be suffered to fail [redacted] entitled to

come then let us stand together with
our united strength."