

SPEAKING NOTES FOR
THE HONOURABLE BILL GRAHAM, P.C., M.P.
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

AT THE
THE VIMY AWARD CEREMONY

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
18 NOVEMBER 2005

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL HILLIER,
[GENERAL RICK HILLIER, CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF]

GENERAL MANSON,
[GENERAL (RET'D) PAUL MANSON PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF
DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE]

MR. SOUTHAM,
[MR. GORDON HAMILTON SOUTHAM, RECIPIENT OF THE 2005
VIMY AWARD]

MR. CAMPION-SMITH,
[MR. BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH, RECIPIENT OF THE 2005 ROSS
MUNRO MEDIA AWARD]

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE
ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE, AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FOR THIS
YEAR'S VIMY AWARD CEREMONY. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THE
PRESENCE OF CADETS FROM RMC HERE TONIGHT.

AS THIS AUDIENCE WELL KNOWS, THE PRESTIGIOUS VIMY AWARD IS NAMED
AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT WAR THAT HELPED TO DEFINE CANADA. IT
RECOGNIZES A CANADIAN WHO HAS MADE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY.

(I AM ALSO PLEASED TO SEE PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS HERE AMONG US,
INCLUDING PROFESSOR BERCUSSON, LAST YEAR'S RECIPIENT).

FOLLOWING THE 1ST CANADIAN CORPS' VICTORY AT VIMY RIDGE, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE DAY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT BORDEN COMMENDED OUR TROOPS FOR THEIR RESOLVE, FOR THE INSPIRATION THEY HAD PROVIDED FOR CANADIANS AND OUR ALLIES, FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONSPICUOUS SACRIFICES IN THE CAUSE, AND THEIR UNFLAGGING DETERMINATION TO SEE THE BATTLE THROUGH TO THE END.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHEN WE LOOK AT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TONIGHT'S AWARD RECIPIENT, HAMILTON SOUTHAM, I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT HE POSSESSES MANY OF THESE SAME CANADIAN QUALITIES.

WHETHER AS A SOLDIER OR VETERAN, JOURNALIST OR DIPLOMAT, UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR OR DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, MR. SOUTHAM HAS EXEMPLIFIED THE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP, OF DEDICATION AND OF SACRIFICE OF PERSONAL LIFE THAT ARE THE HALLMARKS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CANADIAN FORCES.

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE SERVED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY AND NORTHWESTERN EUROPE, FIRST WITH THE ROYAL ARTILLERY AND THEN WITH THE ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY.

AND FOLLOWING THE WAR, MR. SOUTHAM WENT ON TO WORK, FOR A TIME, AS A JOURNALIST WITH THE TIMES OF LONDON AND THE OTTAWA CITIZEN.

HIS CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA CONTINUED WITH A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS WITH OUR FOREIGN SERVICE, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, INCLUDING AS AMBASSADOR TO POLAND.

BEAUCOUP DE GENS CONSIDÈRENT HAMILTON SOUTHAM COMME L'UN DES FONDATEURS DE NOMBREUSES INSTITUTIONS CLÉS DE LA RÉGION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE.

PAR EXEMPLE, LES MÉCÈNES ET LES ARTISTES DU CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS LE CONNAISSENT COMME LE COORDONNATEUR ET LE PREMIER DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL DE L'ÉTABLISSEMENT.

CEPENDANT, CE QUI EST PEUT-ÊTRE MOINS CONNU, LA MAJEURE PARTIE DE SES EFFORTS À TITRE DE «FONDATEUR» PORTENT PRINCIPALEMENT SUR LA PRÉSERVATION DE LA PASSIONNANTE HISTOIRE MILITAIRE DU CANADA. IL DÉSIRE AINSI S'ASSURER QUE LES CANADIENNES ET LES CANADIENS SE SOUCIENT AVANT TOUT DE PROTÉGER CETTE LIBERTÉ QUI NOUS A COÛTÉ TANT DE VIES.

M. SOUTHAM EST UN MEMBRE FONDATEUR DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LE MUSÉE MILITAIRE, UN GROUPE PRINCIPALEMENT RESPONSABLE DE

L'AVÈNEMENT DU NOUVEAU MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE.

IL A CRÉÉ LA FONDATION DE LA BATAILLE DE NORMANDIE À L'OCCASION DU 50E ANNIVERSAIRE DU JOUR J ET APPUIE TOUJOURS CETTE ENTITÉ CARITATIVE REBAPTISÉE LA FONDATION CANADIENNE DES CHAMPS DE BATAILLE.

BON NOMBRE D'ENTRE VOUS SONT CONSCIENT DES EFFORTS INLIASSABLES DÉPLOYÉS PAR M. SOUTHAM POUR QUE LE PROJET DES VALEUREUX SE CONCRÉTISE.

GRÂCE À SON LEADERSHIP, LES STATUES ET LES BUSTES DE 14 CANADIENS AYANT JOUÉ UN RÔLE CRUCIAL DANS NOTRE HISTOIRE MILITAIRE SERONT DÉVOILÉS À OTTAWA L'AN PROCHAIN.

CES ŒUVRES NOUS PERMETTRONT DE S'ASSURER QUE LES GÉNÉRATIONS FUTURES SE SOUVIENNENT DES HOMMES ET DES FEMMES QUI ONT FAÇONNÉ L'HISTOIRE MILITAIRE DU CANADA EN TANT QUE COLONIE, EN TANT QUE NATION INDÉPENDANTE ET QUE PAYS JOUANT UN RÔLE INFLUENT SUR LA SCÈNE INTERNATIONALE.

MOST OF US IN THIS ROOM WELL UNDERSTAND THAT REMEMBERING OUR PAST ALLOWS US TO PUT THE EVENTS OF TODAY IN PERSPECTIVE.

AND THIS EVENING, THE CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS IS ALSO PRESENTING THE ROSS MUNRO MEDIA AWARD TO RECOGNIZE CANADIAN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE INCREASED PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF CONTEMPORARY DEFENCE AND SECURITY ISSUES.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT, MR. BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH, HAS HELPED THE TORONTO STAR KEEP DEFENCE ISSUES FRONT AND CENTRE IN THE NEWS.

HE'S ALSO KEPT MY DEPARTMENT ON ITS TOES.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT MY DEPARTMENT WROTE THAT. OF COURSE, THEY CAN AFFORD TO BE SOMEWHAT SANGUINE ABOUT THAT. FACING THE PROSPECT OF AN IMINENT ELECTION, I'M QUITE HAPPY TO BE KEPT ON MY TOES BUT LET'S NOT PUSH IT TOO FAR!)

CONGRATULATIONS MR. CAMPION-SMITH ON THIS WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION OF YOUR WORK.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BOTH OF TONIGHT'S AWARD RECIPIENTS HAVE MADE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO ENSURING THAT THE SACRIFICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CANADIANS IN UNIFORM — PAST AND PRESENT — ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN.

SO TOO HAS THE CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE. SINCE 1932 IT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC POLICY DEBATE ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY ISSUES IN THIS COUNTRY. I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

PIERRE BERTON ONCE WROTE THAT CANADA "IS A NATION SHAPED BY CONFLICT AND STRENGTHENED BY SACRIFICE." WELL, MR. SOUTHAM HAS WORKED TO ENSURE THAT OUR HISTORY OF CONFLICT AND SACRIFICE IS ALWAYS REMEMBERED.

IN THIS YEAR OF THE VETERAN, IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT THE VIMY AWARD IS PRESENTED TO MR. SOUTHAM — ONE OF THE MANY VETERANS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO WHOM THIS COUNTRY OWES ITS DEEPEST GRATITUDE.

[PERSONAL COMMENT ABOUT HAMILTON; TRINITY, ETC.]

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR AWARD THIS EVENING AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR CANADA AND ITS MILITARY.