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DEATH OF GENERAL DE GAULLE

Comment by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

President de Gaulle was one of the outstanding figures of contemporary history.

When his country was overrun he refused to surrender and continued the fight from abroad. At first he was almost alone, but Frenchmen rallied to him and wearing the Cross of Lorraine he made the Free French Forces a factor in the fight against Nazism.

After the War he played a leading role in France and in post-war Europe, always dominated by almost mystical devotion to France. His physical and moral courage, his devotion to an ideal, his embodiment at times of the spirit of a nation marked him as a great man.

We extend our sympathy to France at his death and we will all feel a little the poorer.

CANBERRA
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