

Your Excellency Ambassador Saintry, President Albuquerque, Your Royal Highness Dom Duarte, Duke of Braganza, Dr. de Araújo, Mr. Ribeiro e Castro, Mr. Godfrey, Professor Espada, ladies and gentlemen:

This year I have been thinking about what Winston Churchill was doing a century ago, in 1923. At that point, having helped establish the Irish Free State, he was finishing up service as Secretary of State for the Colonies by settling Britain's affairs in Mesopotamia and founding Iraq. But he had lost his seat in the House of Commons as the member for Dundee at the end of the previous year, most ironically to the Prohibitionist candidate, and had to depart from the Cabinet. He had finished writing the first volume of his memoirs of the Great War, *The World Crisis*, and embarked on his account of the Dardanelles campaign in the second volume. To some degree he took the advice of Margot Asquith, the wife of the former prime minister, who wrote him in May, "Lie low; do nothing in politics, go on writing all the time & painting; do not join your former colleagues who are making prodigious asses of themselves in every possible manner: Keep friends in every port—lose *no* one. Pirate Ships are no use in times of Peace. Your man of war is for the moment out of action but if you have the patience of Disraeli with your fine temper, glowing mind & real kind unvindictive nature you could still command a great future." And certainly he did.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor tonight to introduce our after-dinner speaker, a gentleman who has become a friend. He was born in London, educated at Westminster School, and then at New College, Oxford, where he studied mathematics and philosophy. During his career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he has had overseas postings in India, Pakistan, Spain, and the Netherlands. In 2018, after four years as Deputy Head of Mission in Italy, he arrived in Portugal as Her Majesty's ambassador. In this latest luster of his service here he has now served two sovereigns and four prime ministers. Accompanied by his wife and helpmeet Sarah, a glance at his Twitter page shows he has led a very busy life since the last time my wife Judith and I were together with him at the Atlantic Conference in January in Madeira, at the invitation of President Albuquerque and Professor Espada. Not only have the ambassador and his wife walked on the *levadas* of that beautiful island, but he has gone on to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance, in celebrations fittingly organized by Dr. de Araújo and the Duke of Braganza in the United Kingdom and in Portugal. He has also explored the Douro Valley, travelled to Porto, Coimbra, Faro, Santarém, and São Miguel, Terceira, and Faial in the Azores, and then flown with the Red Arrows over Lisbon—all with energy and ebullience that must be called Churchillian. Chris Saintry has shown

himself in his mission to Lisbon to be an inspired explorer of the land of Portugal and a true friend of the Portuguese people. Please join me in welcoming His Excellency Ambassador Saintry.