

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

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PRESENTATION OF SLEEPING BAG TO. SIR EDMUND HILLARY

Ottawa, Feb. 11, 1954.

Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand member of the team that successfully climbed Mount Everest, and his wife, visited Ottawa on Monday, February 8th. Sir Edmund, who is on a North American speaking tour, visited Ottawa to address the Canadian Club.

The Department of External Affairs took the opportunity to present Sir Edmund with a sleeping bag, like those used by the expedition, which were designed and manufactured in Canada.

The presentation was made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, Monday afternoon in the Conference Room of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings. The New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. T.C.A. Hislop, C.M.G., was present.

When the expedition conquered Mount Everest, the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, sent congratulatory messages to Sir John Hunt, leader of the expedition, and to Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay. In recognition of their feat the Canadian Government also decided to present them with sleeping bags, identical with those used on the expedition. One has been sent to London for presentation to Sir John Hunt by the Canadian High Commissioner, and another has been sent to New Delhi for presentation to Tensing Norkay. The third was retained in Ottawa pending the arrival of Sir Edmund.

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