

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I am deeply moved and glad to be here among you this evening, at the instigation of my Foundation's UK branch, and in particular its President, Mrs Evelyne Genta to whom I would like to extend my warmest regards and whom I wish to thank for this excellent initiative.

Taking the opportunity to support the action of my foundation and honoring here fifty years after his death the memory of one of the greatest men of the 20th century, one who saved Europe from barbarism, means a great deal to me.

Not only for everything that Sir Winston Churchill accomplished and for he still represents today, but above all because this great man, this unique mind, forged close-knit ties with the Principality of Monaco, ties which continue to inspire us still today.

Winston Churchill – I don't believe I am betraying him by saying this – was a true friend of Monaco, where he received a warm and attentive welcome up to the end of his life. The wise old man found there a peaceful place for reflection, the artist a land of inspiration, the iconoclast an atmosphere for encounters and invention, the inquisitive mind a crossroads where he touched shoulder with the greatest men of his time.

This special atmosphere in Monaco, so greatly appreciated by Sir Winston, is part of our identity. It is also our pride. For decades, Monaco has taken pride in playing host to others, in promoting exchange, in offering a platform to the great voices of each era. This ability, I believe, contributes towards the influence that my country exerts in the world.

This world, as you know, currently faces threats that were not those known by Winston Churchill, but which are no less serious - I am thinking in particular of climate change and the threats hanging over the environment. To address them, we have no other choice but to promote discussions which enlighten, meetings which enable us to understand, cooperation which allows us to work efficiently.

It is in this spirit that I myself have chosen to progress, personally with the Foundation I created close to ten years ago. Committed to act against climate change , protecting

biodiversity and conserving the Planet's water resources .The Foundation has been involved in over three hundred and fifty projects across the globe, always in a spirit of partnership, with major NGOs, States, research laboratories and economic players.

More than ever before, I am convinced that it is only by working together, united in the face of the major challenges of our century, that we will be able to move forward. This is what is at stake at the next COP21 which will take place in Paris in just over a month. And it is also the spirit of our meeting this evening which I am delighted you have been able to attend: to raise awareness and pool resources in order to be more efficient.

I hope that Sir Winston Churchill's example will inspire us all in this respect.

Thank you.