

Remarques introductives

Monsieur le Ministre,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the French Residence.

2015 has been an important year for commemorations in France and the United Kingdom, with the centenary of Gallipoli, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the 75th anniversary of the General de Gaulle's Appeal, not to mention the bicentenary of Waterloo.

These events provide us with an opportunity to come together and share our common history.

2016 will be also an important year, with the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July. As many of you will know, France is very busy with preparations for this event.

I am delighted that Jean-Marc Todeschini, the Minister of State for Veterans and Remembrance, and Joseph Zimet, head of the centenary mission, have come to London to give you a preview of the public events in the summer of 2016.

Without further ado, I now hand over to Minister Todeschini.