

PREFACE

The visit to Vienna of the Paris "SALON D'AUTOMNE" constitutes a new landmark in the path of those cultural relations which, at all times, have been profitable to both Austria and France, two countries of ancient civilization.

Today particularly, it shows the comprehension and the support offered to the new Austria by a country which, having also been crushed by superior numbers, devastated by war, occupied by the enemy, was nevertheless able to take up arms and, in a gallant surge, to reconquer its liberty.

This exhibition is moreover, in my opinion, the living symbol of the supremacy of spiritual values which, disdainful of all material contingencies, and purified and strengthened by ineffable hardship, showed themselves in even greater splendour as soon as the long night was over.

This exhibition reflects the unbreakable resolve of a nation which, threatened in its innermost existence, refused to disappear from the stage of history. It is, therefore, a friendly message of the French Republic to the young Republic of Austria.

As a glowing testimonial of France's believe in the future of a civilization that draws the reasons for its faith and its hopes from the deep sources of its past, this exhibition, in my opinion, constitutes an additional guarantee of my country's confidence in the fate of the new Austrian Republic.

I invited the "SALON D'AUTOMNE" to exhibit in this capital the works of the greatest possible number of their members. The response was immediate and enthusiastic. It had indeed appeared to me that this bubbling crucible, which since the beginning of our century has played an ever growing part in the artistic life of France, which has done so much for its expansion all over the world and given so many young artists of talent the opportunity to tread their own way and to reveal themselves, would