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CALL FOR A NATIONAL LIBERAL CONVENTION

ADDRESS BY

The Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King

On the occasion of

The meeting of the Advisory Council of the
National Liberal Federation of Canada

OTTAWA, JANUARY 20, 1948

The following address was delivered at a largely attended dinner, held under the auspices of the National Liberal Federation, at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, on the second day of the meeting of the Advisory Council of the Federation. Representative members of the Liberal Party from all parts of Canada were present. The Prime Minister was introduced by Mr. J. Gordon Fogo, K.C., President of the National Liberal Federation. Mr. Mackenzie King then addressed a few words of appreciation to Mr. Fogo and the Executive, and words of welcome and greeting to those who had come to be present at the meetings of the Advisory Council. These introductory remarks were followed by his address which dealt, in turn, with: The International Situation; The Problem of Rising Prices; and The Call for a National Convention of the Liberal Party of Canada.

I: THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

MR. KING SAID:

Let me speak first of the international situation.

Any true appreciation of Canada's domestic problems must begin with an understanding of the world situation. This has not always been the case. It was not true of Canada before Confederation. It was not true of Canada in Sir John A. Macdonald's day. It was not true in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's day. It began to be true in the years Sir Robert Borden was in office. The first world war made us aware that Canada's freedom was bound up with the freedom of other nations — if not of all, at least with the freedom of those countries which shared a belief in freedom and free institutions similar to that held by ourselves.

The Menace of World Domination

In the years following the first Great War, we and many other nations solaced ourselves with the belief that the world had witnessed the last of its great conflicts. We thought that war, on such a scale, could never afflict the nations again. We reposed comfortably under the soothing shades of a League of Nations, which was holding meetings and many conferences in the heart of Europe, at Geneva. To this body, we were prepared to relegate consideration of problems that might give rise to war. We went on our way thinking mainly, and all but exclusively, of our own domestic affairs. It was only in the thirties we began to experience a growing concern and