

COLOURED PAPER  
PAPIER DE COULEUR

C 287628

COPY

HOUSE OF COMMONS, DECEMBER 14, 1944

Mr. Edgar Granville asked the Prime Minister if he can give an assurance that the Dominion Governments have been consulted at each stage in the action taken by His Majesty's Government in Greece; and whether this aspect of foreign policy has been approved by them.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill): "It is not physically possible to consult the Dominion Governments as to every step which the fast moving developments of the war render necessary. They have, however, throughout been kept closely and continuously informed of what is taking place".

Mr. Granville: "Does that reply mean that the Dominion Governments were consulted before the War Cabinet decision was taken and before military action was taken and not merely informed afterwards? Can the Prime Minister say if it is still the practice as enunciated by him in this House that the representatives of the Dominion Governments shall be invited to War Cabinet meetings when questions of this kind are being discussed?"

The Prime Minister: "The honourable gentleman is mixing up several different kinds of things. Great questions of policy like whether we should go to the aid of Greece after the Germans were driven out are made manifest to the Dominions by the continued succession of telegrams which are sent from this country and which give them a perfect picture of the situation. The executive measures which are sometimes forced to be taken with the greatest speed owing to danger to life and limb - these measures it is not possible to refer to Governments all over the world. But they have been kept fully informed of everything that happens as it goes forward and the Dominions Secretary informs me that I could rightfully say that we have received from the Dominions Governments no indications that they dissent from the action we have been compelled to take."