

The absolute minimum requirement for Canadian participation would be a guarantee that adequate provision is made for the association of Canada in the actual work of drafting at a time when the draft is sufficiently flexible to be changed. It is hoped, however, that any reversion to the restrictive Council of Foreign Ministers procedure for concluding the settlement will not become necessary, and that Canada will be able to participate on a basis of equality under a procedure similar in principle to that proposed by the United States Government.

65. In a more detailed way the most desirable procedure would seem to be,

- (1) The early convening of an eleven-power conference as proposed by the United States. This conference could decide on main policies and establish the framework of committees and sub-committees under which the settlement could be prepared. In the Canadian view, there should be a steering committee set up to co-ordinate the work of various committees and functional sub-committees. The Secretariat should not be allowed to usurp the functions of this steering committee as was the case during the commission stage of the Paris Conference. The Committees might be of the whole and the Sub-Committees could be organized on a functional basis to permit those countries having a specific interest in any one aspect of the settlement to be represented on the Committee concerned with that problem.
- (2) The committees and sub-committees established by the plenary conference of ministers could proceed to draft the individual sections of the Peace Treaty. Experience at the Paris Conference and at the Moscow Meeting of Foreign Ministers has demonstrated that where the Press is represented at the committee stage in international discussions, there is a tendency for the positions of each of the delegations to become rigid and compromise becomes more difficult. In addition, certain delegations are inclined for propaganda purposes to address themselves to the Press rather than to the business at hand. For this reason it would be desirable if the committees and sub-committees set up for drafting purposes could conduct their deliberations in secrecy.