

tralian Minister for External Affairs, told the Australian House of Representatives on Wednesday that his Government had not seriously considered the dispatching of an expeditionary force overseas. He declared that when Australia had discharged its first duty to the Empire, namely, to ensure its own safety, and when it was better able to assess the strength of its enemies and the nature of the conflict, it would evolve proposals for its further participation in the war. That statement indicates that the Australian Government is making the same approach to this problem as the Government of Canada.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Would my honourable friend permit me to direct his attention to the fact that the strategical situation of Australia is wholly different from that of Canada, and that any hesitation which may exist on the part of Australia in sending troops abroad is due to the threat and the proximity of another hostile power, namely, Japan. It is unfortunate, I think, that the honourable gentleman himself, and his leader in another place, should have made a comparison between Canada and Australia in the matter of an expeditionary force.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Perhaps my honourable friend would wait till I resume my seat, because I want to inform him of a fact about which he knows nothing, namely, Canada's consultation with Australia and the United Kingdom on this very matter. My honourable friend may be alluding to a hypothesis and not to the facts as they are.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That raises another question. Is it the intention of the Government, before Parliament rises, to put us in possession of information of that sort in order that there may be an intelligent discussion before we leave?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would say, without turning to my colleagues for authority, that the answer would be in the negative, because, in the interest of safety, all these matters that pass between the British Government and the Governments of Australia and Canada must remain absolutely confidential.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: What then becomes of the doctrine that Parliament must decide?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The answer is very easy. The situation in time of war is very different from that which prevails in time of peace. My right honourable friend knows very well that he and his leader in the other House, as Privy Councillors, may be informed of all that goes on between the governments,

but that it is improper, improvident and most dangerous to impart such information to Parliament.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: What about the doctrine?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The information in our possession indicates the desirability and feasibility—I emphasize these words—of certain measures of naval and air co-operation. It is evident that the immediate and most effective measures of co-operation would be rapid expansion of air training and of air and naval facilities, and the dispatching of air personnel. These measures we intend to institute immediately. The veil may be lifted to some extent. One does not need great imagination to understand what the instituting of these measures will mean with respect to the relations between the United Kingdom and Canada.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Will the honourable gentleman permit me? He is raising the veil. Will he raise it far enough to inform us whether this Air Force personnel who are to be trained and sent to Great Britain in the near future will go as Canadian airmen, under Canadian control, or as recruits to the British Air Force, having no connection with this country?

Hon. Mr. PARENT: Time will tell.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not in a position to state what the exact position of the Air Force personnel will be when the men reach the other side. I may, though I am not sure about this, be able to inform my honourable friend before the session ends.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: In any event, the British Government has not objected to the training of Canadian airmen in England, as we objected last year to the reverse proposal.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As to the international crisis in Europe and Great Britain's conduct of foreign affairs, with important and perhaps dire results for ourselves, I would suggest to my honourable friend that we take the situation as it is, that we address ourselves to projects for meeting the problems of today and to-morrow, and leave the past alone.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: The honourable gentleman is turning over a new leaf, I understand.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not turning over a new leaf; I am trying to look at the situation as it is.

My right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) has said, in effect, that we and all members of the nation should dedicate ourselves to the task before us. But in doing