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the existence of

~~CANADA'S~~ DECLARATION OF A STATE OF WAR
WITH HUNGARY, ROUMANIA AND FINLAND

between Canada and

Statement BROADCAST BY *slut*

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

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DECEMBER 6, 1941

~~OTTAWA, December 8th, 1941.~~

For weeks past, the free countries of the world have anxiously followed the course of negotiations between the governments of the United States and Japan. These negotiations, it was hoped, might serve to establish an enduring peace ~~on~~ the Pacific, and thereby restrict the area of conflict in the present war.

Yesterday, the peoples of the United States and of the British Empire learned with amazement that the negotiations so well intended by the United States had, in fact, been made a cover by Japan for a carefully planned attack upon United States territories and forces, and upon British territories and forces in the Pacific.

Out of a blue sky on a quiet Sunday afternoon, we, in Canada, heard that Hitler's axis partner in the Orient had joined Germany in her effort at world domination. In all particulars, Japan was following the Nazi pattern of aggression, by resort increasingly to deception, terrorism and violence. It was the blitzkrieg all over again.

To-day, you have heard the infamous conduct of Japan denounced by the President of the United States, and by the Prime Minister of Great Britain. You have also learned of the immediate manner in which the Japanese challenge has been met by the governments of each of these countries. I need not repeat what you have already been told by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill.

Yesterday, as soon as I received authoritative information of the outbreak of hostilities, I summoned the Cabinet to meet at 7.30 in the evening. Canada's action was taken promptly. It was at once recognized that Japan's actions were a threat to the defence and freedom of Canada and the other nations of the British Commonwealth. As a result of our deliberations, it was decided that the Government of Canada should immediately associate itself with the Governments of the United Kingdom in hostilities against Japan. In reaching this decision, the Cabinet acted upon the authority given at the outbreak of war by the decision of Parliament for effective co-operation by Canada at the side of Britain to resist aggression. An Order in Council was passed recommending the authorization by His Majesty the King of a proclamation declaring the existence of a state of war between Canada and Japan from December the 7th.

The necessary submission was made to the King after the meeting of the Cabinet. The Royal Approval was given by His Majesty at 1.10 p.m. today, British time, which would be 7.10 a.m. Ottawa time.

The proclamation has since been published in a special issue of the *Canada Gazette*.

In taking the prompt action we did, my colleagues and I had much in mind the assurances publicly given by Mr. Churchill to the United States on behalf of Great Britain. The first of these assurances broadcast on August 24th, at a time I myself was Mr. Churchill's guest, was to the effect that if negotiations between Japan and the United States should fail, the United Kingdom would of course range itself unhesitatingly at the side of the United States. This guarantee of Britain's support Mr. Churchill repeated in another world broadcast on November 10th. This time he said that if Japan made war against the United States, Britain would declare war within the hour.

When, five days later, Canadian forces landed at Hong Kong, I made the statement that defence against aggression, actual or threatened, in any part of the world, was today a part of the defence of every country which still enjoyed freedom. I added that it was in accordance with that view that the Canadian Government deemed it advisable to associate Canadian troops with the forces of other parts of the British Commonwealth stationed in the Orient. The Cabinet was aware last night that, as Japanese action progressed, our troops might at any moment be under fire. In these circumstances, it appeared to my colleagues and myself that it was the duty of the Government to act with all possible speed and decision.