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DRAFT OF A STATEMENT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE GERMAN PEACE SETTLEMENT

During recent weeks the Government has been giving serious consideration to Canada's participation in the peace settlement with Germany. The immediate question under discussion has been our response to an invitation from the Special Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers to appear before that body at their meetings in London, and to make known the views of the Canadian Government.

In dealing with this question the Government has tried to avoid any action that would either obstruct or delay the work of peace-making. On the contrary, we have put forward our views in what appears to us to be moderate and constructive terms, and we have throughout coupled our expressions of misgivings over the procedure that was suggested, with practicable suggestions for alternative measures.

In the middle of December the Government learned through the press that the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in New York had appointed Special Deputies to take preliminary steps in regard to the peace settlement with Germany. Our information in this regard indicated that the Special Deputies would hear the views on the German settlement of allied countries which had actively contributed to the war against Germany, and would also discuss the procedure to be followed subsequently in preparing the treaty with Germany. It appeared to the Government that the participation in the German settlement which was contemplated for Canada would not be adequate and