

7. The election of France and Canada to the Central Committee of the Council was postponed by the Russians who were in a position to veto it until their financial claim had been compromised. Finally, it was the Russians who seconded the motion for enlarging the Council. They did, however, oppose a proposal of the Australians to enlarge it further still by the inclusion of three countries which were not Great Powers. Their opposition, which was fatal to the motion, was not explained or foreshadowed and this caused the Australians to express themselves very strongly. The Russians eventually explained that their reason for opposing the enlargement of the Council was that it constituted an important change in UNRRA's constitution and that notice of the proposal should have been given well in advance of the meeting of the Council. The Australians accepted this explanation and the incident closed as a misunderstanding.

1243.

DEA/2295-AR-40

*Le Premier ministre au directeur général, UNRRA*  
*Prime Minister to Director General, UNRRA*

Ottawa, September 17, 1945

Dear Mr. Lehman,

I have received with pleasure your letter of August 25<sup>+</sup> in which you reported the decision of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to include Canada in the membership of the General Committee. May I on behalf of the Canadian Government express to you my sincere thanks for your good wishes.

Arrangements have been made to have Mr. L. B. Pearson, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, represent Canada on the Central Committee; at the same time, Mr. Pearson is taking steps to divest himself of the Chairmanship of the Committee on Supplies.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING