

tain our high standard of living while that of millions in Europe is reduced to a very low level. Everyone in North America must realize that in order to avert another war we may have to come down in our standard of living while we raise that of Europe. We will certainly fight against lowering our standard of living, but inevitably, if we manufacture more than we can sell, we must sooner or later either curtail production or find new customers. Much will have to be accomplished at San Francisco before Europe and Asia will be stabilized and in a position to take the surplus products of our agriculture and labour, and we shall avoid disappointment by not expecting immediate results from the conference.

The task of stabilizing Europe is stupendous: to satisfy Poland may mean war with Russia; to satisfy Hungary may mean more trouble with Bulgaria. This critical situation can be met only by the best brains and by the exercise on all sides of the utmost patience and toleration. The most hopeful feature is that every thinking person is alive to the gravity of the situation and is following it with sustained interest. A way will be found, but we shall all have to contribute our part. We may take comfort from the fact that a start has been made; but let no one forget that we are fighting the greatest war in history and that the first call on our shipping space is for the transport of ammunition and food for our troops. This is more important than feeding civilians on the continent, and when shipping is available I would say Canadians are prepared to tighten their belts and do their full share.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McRae the debate was adjourned.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

DEBATE CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. King:

That is it expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the following resolution:

Whereas the Government of Canada has been invited by the Government of the United States of America, on behalf of itself and of the governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of China, to send representatives to a conference of the United Nations to be held on April 25, 1945, at San Francisco in the United States of America to prepare a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, and

Whereas the invitation suggests that the conference consider as affording a basis for such a charter the proposals for the establishment

of a general international organization which have been made public by the four governments which participated in the discussions at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, and

Whereas the Government of Canada has accepted the invitation to send representatives to this conference,

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That this House endorses the acceptance by the Government of Canada of the invitation to send representatives to the conference.

2. That this House recognizes that the establishment of an effective international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security is of vital importance to Canada, and, indeed, to the future well-being of mankind; and it is in the interests of Canada that Canada should become a member of such an organization;

3. That this House approves the purposes and principles set forth in the proposals of the four governments, and considers that these proposals constitute a satisfactory general basis for a discussion of the charter of the proposed international organization;

4. That this House agrees that the representatives of Canada at the conference should use their best endeavours to further the preparation of an acceptable charter for an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security;

5. That the charter establishing the international organization should, before ratification, be submitted to Parliament for approval.

Hon. A. K. HUGESSEN: Honourable senators, in resuming the debate on this resolution I may say I am struck, as I think every honourable member must be struck, by its extreme importance. I do not imagine that any more important resolution has ever come before this honourable body than the one which is now under consideration. It comes to us, honourable senators, with a very sombre background. Some aspects of that sombre background have been discussed this afternoon by the honourable senator from Fort William (Hon. Mr. Paterson) in another debate. It is a background of two devastating world wars within the course of one generation. This resolution reflects the hope—some people say it is the only hope—that in future the world will be able to avoid the desolations of the past twenty-five years.

Now, what is this resolution? It refers in the preamble to the proposals for a new organization to maintain international peace and security, as tentatively agreed upon by the four great powers at the recent Dumbarton Oaks conference and slightly modified at the Yalta Conference of a few weeks ago. Then it refers to the invitation extended to this Government by the Government of the United States to take part in a conference to be held in San Francisco for the purpose of considering these proposals.