

- (e) A second defeat after the experience in London in January, 1946, would be "distasteful".

11. The arguments in favour of standing were:

- (a) It had been a basic principle of Canadian foreign policy to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument for maintaining international peace and security; a refusal to accept membership on one of the principal organs of the United Nations would appear inconsistent with that principle;
- (b) Canada had upheld the functional principle of representation on bodies such as the Security Council and it would, therefore, be difficult to reconcile this view with an unwillingness to accept responsibility of membership on the Security Council. Of all the states which up to that date had not served on the Security Council Canada most fully met the tests of paragraph 1 of article 23 of the Charter; 1
- (c) There was a general expectation that Canada would stand and be elected;
- (d) Within Canada it would be difficult to explain that the reason why Canada was not a candidate was that the government considered the Council to be an ineffective body;
- (e) If Canada failed to stand, India or some other state which would be more susceptible to the influence of the USSR might be elected;
- (f) The Security Council would be dealing with a number of questions such as Disarmament and Atomic Energy in which Canada had a special interest. Canadian delegations had also been urging reforms in the practices and procedure of the Security Council and the Canadian representative on the Security Council would have an opportunity to press for their adoption.

12. The memorandum, which was prepared in the form of a draft memorandum for Cabinet, contained no recommendation. Mr. St. Laurent noted on his copy, however, that because he considered the decision involved to be one of "major importance" he wished first to obtain Mr. King's "considered views". Although Mr. King received this memorandum in the course of the first week in June, it was not until August that the decision to stand was taken. As far as can be judged from the files, this decision was taken only by Mr. King upon Mr. St. Laurent's favourable recommendation. It was not discussed in Cabinet although Cabinet at a meeting held on September 11th was informed of the decision which it "noted with approval".

13. All members of the United Nations were informed of Canada's candidature through Canadian representatives abroad. Member governments were merely asked to give the question "sympathetic consideration". The circular telegram warned that

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1 "... The General Assembly shall elect six other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution".