

REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

SECTION I

THE BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE

The Moscow Conference which ended on November 1, 1943, was the first step by the Great Powers towards the development of plans for the new international security organization forecast in the Atlantic Charter, and endorsed by the United Nations Declaration of 1942. In the Declaration issued at the conclusion of the Moscow Conference the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, and China, which were later represented at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, declared that they recognized "the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality, of all peace-loving states and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security".

The Prime Ministers' Meeting in London in May, 1944, discussed proposals framed by the United Kingdom Government. The United Kingdom Government, after revising these proposals in the light of the discussions, submitted them to the Governments of China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America. Corresponding papers prepared by these three Governments were also circulated among the four Great Powers.

Following a study of the revised United Kingdom memoranda, the Canadian Government gave the United Kingdom Government a considered expression of its views on some of the more important questions which were about to be discussed between the four powers.

The documents prepared by the four powers constituted the basis of the Dumbarton Oaks conversations which took place in Washington from August 21 to October 7, 1944, between the representatives of the four powers. The Dumbarton Oaks Proposals resulted from these conversations.

Canada was not represented at Dumbarton Oaks, but the United Kingdom delegation met every day with representatives of the diplomatic missions in Washington of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India. Thus the Canadian Government received day-by-day reports on the progress of the discussions and, in return, made its own views known to the United Kingdom delegation, both at the daily Commonwealth meetings and by telegrams to the United Kingdom Government.

Several questions on which agreement at a high political level was necessary were left open at Dumbarton Oaks. The most important of these related to the voting procedure in the Security Council. Agreement on this was reached between the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom at the Crimea Conference at Yalta in February, 1945. The Yalta Conference also agreed that the question of the possible functions of the projected new international organization in the field of territorial trusteeship