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ability under present arrangements to bring its views to bear effectively in fields of international relations in which the Australian Government deems itself directly concerned. There is considerable evidence to suggest that failing achievement of a satisfactory individual status, Australia would wish to exert its influence in world affairs through the formation of a Commonwealth panel with a view to having the United Kingdom representative in Great Power discussions speak for the Commonwealth and with the full force of the Commonwealth as a whole. A further development of Australian thinking along these lines, is that when the interest of one member of the Commonwealth is a given problem is greater than that of the other Dominions it should be authorized, failing participation on a basis of equality, to represent the Commonwealth in Great Power discussions, rather than have the representatives of Great Britain perform this function.

43. While the "one voice" policy has not been specifically formulated by the Australian Government, certain speeches by Dr. Evatt, and opinions expressed by Australian representatives abroad lend weight to the belief that something along this line is contemplated. In a statement to the Australian House of Representatives on February 26th of this year, Dr. Evatt made the following remarks:

"I have already drawn attention in this House to the fact that Australia, to an increasing degree, has begun to assume in relation to the Pacific a larger share of general British Commonwealth responsibilities. Illustrations of this trend are the appointment of an Australian to represent four Members of the British Commonwealth on the Allied Council for Japan, and the selection of an Australian Commander-in-Chief of British Commonwealth Forces in that country.

"The recent successful South Pacific Conference held in Canberra is a further illustration of the special responsibilities which Australia and New Zealand are assuming in the Pacific. This Conference results from a carefully planned initiative undertaken by Australia and New Zealand - an initiative which springs from the growing realisations that we must make positive efforts to direct and control developments in this part of the world.

"This development was inevitable. Moreover, it is certain to continue. The United Kingdom Government has decided to hand over power in India at the end of June 1948 and the United Kingdom is also facilitating the early attainment of self-government in Burma. It is natural, therefore, that, as Great Britain relinquishes the special responsibilities which she has held in these areas for so long, the extent of Australian initiative must be substantially increased... I have already referred to the assumption by Australia of certain British Commonwealth responsibilities in the area of the Pacific. This is only one example of a trend by which one or other of the Dominions will act for the U.K. and other Dominions in respect of specified functions or in relation to an agreed geographical region. Already in the field of defence this principle has had several applications.