

territory to the British Empire. In so far, however, as the colonies conquered by South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand were concerned, he would be prepared to support their retention on one consideration, and one only, and that was that their acquisition was necessary for the future security of the Empire. As regards the remaining conquered territories, he was in favour of entrusting their control and dominion to whichever State was appointed as mandatory for that purpose by the League of Nations, on the lines suggested in General Smuts' paper. The mandate would be for the development of those countries in the interests of the inhabitants until they were capable of governing themselves. He assumed, of course, that the French and others who had occupied enemy colonies would agree to the same policy.

...

### 15. *Colonial Secretary to Governor General*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM

SECRET

Ottawa, December 20, 1918

As a result of discussions at Imperial War Cabinet<sup>1</sup> it has been settled that two Canadian Divisions shall, during period of partial demobilization, form part of Army of Occupation in Germany. Question reserved for further consideration regarding Canadian troops forming Army of Occupation after general demobilization.

LONG

### 16. *Extracts from Minutes of Forty-Sixth Meeting of Imperial War Cabinet<sup>2</sup>*

SECRET

December 24, 1918

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

...

Sir Robert Borden said that, no doubt, at some later date the Cabinet would take up General Smuts' propositions in detail, in order to see what practical effect could be given to them. He wished to associate himself with previous speakers in paying his tribute to the great service he felt General Smuts had performed in producing his statesmanlike examination of the project of a League of Nations. General Smuts had taken a wide and fine conception of a method by which nations, great and small, should have their quarrels settled by reference to a Council and not by recourse to war. It was very necessary that international rules should be laid down and observed, and that force, if required, should be exerted in order to ensure their observance. The peace of the world depended upon public opinion, because, although in any orderly civilised country order depended upon the force behind, that force required the sanction of public opinion. He agreed with General Smuts

<sup>1</sup>Document 12.

<sup>2</sup>Canadian representatives present: Sir Robert L. Borden and Sir G. E. Foster.