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any commitment to join in making a League war for peace sake.

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But I stated in Geneva last September:

"What I have said and quoted does not mean that in no circumstances would the Canadian people be prepared to share in action against an aggressor; there have been no absolute commitments of either for or against participation in war or other forms of force. It does mean that any decision on the part of Canada to participate in war will have to be taken by the Parliament or people of Canada in the light of all existing circumstances; circumstances of the day as they exist in Canada, as well as in the areas involved."

We are a member of the British Commonwealth. That unique organization succeeds with rare exceptions in maintaining peace among its own members, one fourth of the word's area. Its members, of recent years at least, have sought peace with other countries. It is a force for peace today. But membership in it does involve a risk of one part being involved in wars into which other parts may become engaged, and a realistic appreciation of the situation leaves no doubt that Canada is least likely to involve any other part in such a conflict, or to require assistance from any other part. We have declined to admit any automatic commitment to participation in a war in which one or more members of the Commonwealth may be engaged.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1940-1950, MG 26 J 4, Volume 394, pages C277006-C277803

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