

calm and resolute courage. There is no home in Canada, no family, and no individual whose fortunes and freedom are not bound up in the present struggle. I appeal to my fellow Canadians to unite in a national effort to save from destruction all that makes life itself worth living, and to preserve for future generations those liberties and institutions which others have bequeathed to us.

Let me repeat: The views there expressed are those of the government with respect to the issue that is involved in this present struggle. The issue being what it is, Britain and France having taken their stand beside Poland to redeem pledges which they made for the purpose of avoiding hostilities and as a means of avoiding further aggression, if parliament supports the administration this country will go into this war to be at the side of Britain, cooperating with her and with France towards those great and imperative ends, and equally to defend its own institutions and liberties.

What are the measures and methods that we propose to adopt in prosecuting our effort in the defence of Canada and in cooperation with Britain? So far as cooperation is concerned our efforts will be carried out in the light of the fullest information we can obtain in regard to the whole situation, as the result of consultation with the British authorities, and of the knowledge we ourselves may possess, or obtain from other sources. We have had before us all along the common consensus of view of the imperial conference of 1937, the year of the coronation, as to how cooperation if agreed to could be made most effective for the purpose of preserving peace and of avoiding aggression. It is I think important that I read to the house what those views are, because they express the views which were agreed to by this government at that time, and which have evidently been accepted as in every way appropriate and authoritative, seeing that the report has been before parliament for two years and that no exception has been taken to them by any members.

Reading from the summary of proceedings of the imperial conference of 1937, I turn to the part which deals with foreign affairs. It is as follows. I shall, in reading, only quote the more relevant excerpts:

At the plenary meeting of the imperial conference on May 14, the chairman made the following statement in the course of his opening speech:

"Though we shall discuss other important subjects, we are agreed that questions of foreign affairs and defence shall be our main subjects. It is fitting that they should be. For we are met at a time when the international situation is difficult and even threatening, and the responsibility rests upon us to see that our deliberations not only are of service to our-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

selves but also may help in some measure towards the solution of those international problems which are now perplexing the world."

The conference recorded the results of its deliberations on the subject of foreign affairs in the following statement:

The representatives of the governments of the British commonwealth of nations gathered in the conference, have in the course of their proceedings had an opportunity of exchanging views upon foreign affairs and the international situation as it affects their respective interests and responsibilities.

While no attempt was made to formulate commitments, which in any event could not be made effective until approved and confirmed by the respective parliaments, the representatives of the governments concerned found themselves in close agreement upon a number of general propositions which they thought it desirable to set out in the present statement.

I ask the house to note those words:

... no attempt was made to formulate commitments, which in any event could not be made effective until approved and confirmed by the respective parliaments.

That is the position we are in to-day. Until this parliament now assembled is prepared to approve and confirm what has been done under the War Measures Act and what remains to be done under the measures which will be introduced into this house there will be no commitments that will be binding upon this country. The summary continues:

Thus they agreed that for each member of the commonwealth the first objective is the preservation of peace. In their view the settlement of differences that may arise between nations and the adjustment of national needs should be sought by methods of cooperation, joint enquiry and conciliation. It is in such methods, and not in recourse to the use of force between nation and nation, that the surest guarantee will be found for the improvement of international relations and respect for mutual engagements.

Holding these views and desiring to base their policies upon the aims and ideals of the League of Nations, they found themselves unanimous in declaring that their respective armaments will never be used for purposes of aggression or for any purpose inconsistent with the covenant of the League of Nations or the Pact of Paris.

Let me remind the house that this country is one of the signatories to the pact of Paris. That was an agreement to renounce war as an instrument of national policy. Germany was also a signatory to that agreement. She has violated that treaty. We propose to hold to all of the treaties we have entered into which have been fashioned for the purpose of preserving peace. One of the reasons we are asking this parliament to support our policy at the present time is that we believe that it is only by the triumph of those nations which are seeking to-day to keep treaties intact, and only as treaties are