

There is another factor which inevitably influences Canadian opinion on many League policies, and particularly on the question of automatic obligations to the use of force in international disputes. I have in mind our experience as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The nations of the British Commonwealth are held together by ties of friendship, by similar political institutions, and by common attachment to democratic ideals, rather than by commitments to join together in war. The Canadian parliament reserves to itself the right to declare, in the light of the circumstances existing at the time, to what extent, if at all, Canada will participate in conflicts in which other members of the Commonwealth may be engaged. It is true there are special factors in this relationship which make it impossible to draw a complete parallel between League and Commonwealth relations. But these factors also work in both directions. Certainly this experience has had an effect in convincing Canadians of the possibility of preserving close and friendly cooperation without the existence of a central authority, or of military commitments.

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