

5. Statement issued to the press on publication of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, October 9, 1944

The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, in commenting on the statement issued to-day in Washington, London, Moscow and Chungking on the discussions looking to the establishment of a general international organization which have just concluded in Washington, said that the Canadian Government welcomed the very large measure of agreement which had been reached between the representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, United States, Soviet Union and China at the talks at Dumbarton Oaks.

Mr. King continued: "Canada is vitally concerned that an effective international organization should be established for the maintenance of peace and security. It is generally recognized that agreement between the countries which have taken part in the discussions in Washington is an essential condition of success. Without the full participation of the greatest countries it would be impossible to establish an international system which could effectively maintain the peace of the world and achieve the necessary co-operation, not only in adjusting disputes and preventing war, but also in solving the great international problems of human welfare.

"The statement issued to-day deals with matters which deeply affect the future of every Canadian. I commend it to the careful and earnest study of the people of Canada. The issues raised will, I hope, not become a matter of party controversy, since they far transcend party lines. They should not be made the subject of hasty judgments. The tentative proposals are receiving the serious and urgent study of the Government of Canada. It is the Government's intention to refrain from passing judgment on them until this study has been completed.

"It is indicated in the communique covering the proposals that they constitute a basis for further discussion in the first instance between the Governments which have been represented at the Washington talks. These Governments are not themselves committed to the acceptance of the plan. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said in the House of Commons at Westminster on September 28 that in his view a satisfactory agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom and Soviet Governments could only be reached after a further meeting of the three heads of Governments, which he earnestly hoped might be brought about before the end of this year.

"The official delegations in Washington were unable to reach agreement on some points. The proposals there framed are, therefore, but the first stage in the development of a draft Charter for consideration by all the United Nations. They have still to be accepted and supplemented by the initiating Governments before they are submitted to other countries for their consideration. When they are so submitted the intention is that a full United Nations Conference should be convened at which it is hoped that final proposals will be developed. Before the draft Charter takes its final form, there will be full opportunity for its revision in the light of the views expressed by other countries.