

in an Assembly session even longer than that of last year. Canadian policy on these matters will be presented by a delegation headed by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King. Other members of the delegation are as follows:

The Honourable Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport.

The Honourable Wishart McL. Robertson, Leader of the Government in the Senate.

General the Honourable A.G. L. McNaughton, Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations.

Major-General George P. Vanier, Canadian Ambassador to France

Alternates :

Hughes Lapointe, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence.

Ralph Maybank, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Norman A. Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner in the U.K.

L. Dana Wilgress, Canadian Minister to Switzerland

R.G. Riddell, Department of External Affairs.

The Canadian Delegation will be assisted by technical advisers and secretarial staff drawn from Canadian diplomatic missions abroad and from the Department of External Affairs.

time to make the necessary preparations before assuming the duties of the head of a new administration. He also feels that it would be unfortunate were he obliged, almost immediately after assuming office, to be away from Canada for a possible absence overseas of some weeks, and this at a time when so many matters require consideration at home, a great number of which are related to the preparation of the business of the next session of Parliament. For these reasons, Mr. St. Laurent has expressed the wish that I should represent Canada at the meeting of Prime Ministers in London in October, and also head the Canadian delegation at the early sessions of the Assembly of the United Nations which meets in Paris next month. After consultation with my other colleagues, I have agreed to meet Mr. St. Laurent's wishes in these particulars.

RETIREMENT

In agreeing to delay the time of my retirement from office, I have been influenced by the fact that, during my absence abroad, Mr. St. Laurent will be Acting Prime Minister, and that the consideration of all matters of policy, and the preparation of the session's program will be under this immediate direction. We have arranged that, if at any time during the course of the London meeting, Mr. St. Laurent's presence in London would appear to be desirable, he will endeavour to join me there.

I should perhaps add that much as I would have welcomed the opportunity while in Europe to accept the invitations repeatedly extended to me by the governments of Italy and Greece to pay an official visit to those countries, I feel that this would not now be possible, and have so advised our ambassadors in Rome and Athens.

It is my intention to seek retirement from office as soon after my return from London as may serve to meet my successor's convenience.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

In announcing the membership of the Canadian delegation to the U.N. General Assembly, the Prime Minister, on August 25, gave the following statement to the Press:

I stated in the House of Commons before Parliament prorogued, that, once a successor to myself in the Leadership of the Party had been chosen, I would confer with him as to future plans, and in particular the time at which it would appear to be most appropriate for me to seek retirement from the Leadership of the government.

Since the Convention I have made clear to Mr. St. Laurent and my other colleagues of the Cabinet that in deciding upon the precise time of tendering to His Excellency my resignation as Prime Minister, I desired to be governed by what would appear to them to be most in the public interest, having in view the many matters to which the new leader is now obliged to give consideration, and for which he has to make suitable provision.

A question to which, in this connection it has been felt necessary to give most careful consideration is wheth-

er I should seek retirement from office forthwith, thereby occasioning the immediate formation of a new administration, and the immediate transfer from myself to Mr. St. Laurent of the full responsibilities of office, or whether that step should be deferred until after the meeting of Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth to be held in London in October.

The meeting in London is not, as some have assumed, in the nature of an Imperial Conference at which several ministers and their advisers will be present, and where decisions upon policy will be made. It is a meeting between the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and certain other nations of the Commonwealth to discuss matters of common interest in a manner which will permit of the freest possible exchange of views for reference back to their respective governments. The meeting had been planned originally for the months of June or July. It was deferred owing to the difficulty of securing a representative gathering at that time

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