

"It was accidental, but I think useful, that we met while developments were taking place in the Far East, which caused general anxiety. As these developments occurred, we exchanged views about them in a way which I am sure was very helpful in relation to our individual policies."

"We did not try to draw up a blueprint for collective action which would be made public, but we all have our individual obligations in these matters, and we all have a common concern to avoid conflict; and also, may I add, to avoid disunity and division among the nations that are earnestly seeking peace; and I am convinced we are all doing our utmost toward those ends."

"At the close of our meetings, it was my privilege to express the thanks of all the Prime Ministers to our host, Sir Winston Churchill. He replied with a few moving words about what he called our 'fraternal association', in which he pointed out that this association meant to him, among other things, that each of our Governments should always think of the others every time we had to say or do anything which would affect the others."

FORMOSA

"I do not propose to disregard that wise advice, but as the principal communique indicates that the developments in the area of Formosa were necessarily of special concern to all the Prime Ministers present, I want to say a special word about our own position on this Formosan question. This position cannot, of course, be either final or inflexible, because the situation itself is changing and the changes that take place are bound to affect our judgment of how our policy should develop."

"But the principles upon which our policy is based and our approach to this problem have already been made known to the House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) and I want to emphasize that again, in spite of some reports to the contrary, those were not altered during the meeting in London."

"The first objective, on which we are all agreed, is that everything possible should be done to prevent fighting and stop it if it occurs, and then to seek a political settlement by negotiation. But no one thinks this is going to be easy. It will require time and patience and the chances for success are not likely to be improved by hasty or ill-considered declarations, or by conferences for which there has been no proper diplomatic preparation."

"No one in the free world wants war, with all its unimaginable horrors, to develop over this Formosan situation. I am confident that those who are directing policy in Washington and London and other Commonwealth capitals are just as anxious that such a war should be avoided as we are."

"I think we can all take encouragement from the fact that the President of the United States has recognized that the situation is one which requires great care, great patience, and understanding, and that these are the qualities which are governing his policy in this matter."

"I should also like once more to emphasize this: Canada has no commitments regarding collective security in the Far East, and indeed no commitments of any kind in respect of the Formosa area except those which arise out of our membership in the United Nations."

Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Progressive Conservative member for Prince Albert, asked the following question:

"Among the questions referred to by the press was that there was to be a discussion as to a more equitable distribution in defence efforts. The Prime Minister stated that Canada's emphasis was going to be on continental defence. Would the Prime Minister say something with regard to that, because there would appear to be a complete change of attitude from that indicated in the House of Commons?"

NO CHANGE

...To which Mr. St. Laurent replied:

"I expressed no change of attitude. This Conference was held in camera and there was a lot of speculation by newspapermen about what went on. I was rather surprised to read some of the reports."

"The only statement I made was that Canada was taking a substantial part under the North Atlantic Treaty in building up the land and air defence forces in Europe and that developments in thermonuclear weapons and in the method of delivery had brought home to us the need of providing a warning system on the American continent which for geographical reasons would have to be largely on Canadian territory."

"We felt that it was necessary to have that early warning system as one of the components of the deterrent effect of these weapons so that any potential enemy would realize that even a surprise attack would not make retaliation impossible."

"I added that our part in the establishment of such a system would place a heavy load on the Canadian people; that a large part of the financial burden would be borne by the United States but that Canada must play her part. It was most important that these things done on Canadian soil be a joint operation and be dealt with as such; and that there be nothing that would indicate that it was not something of interest to Canada as well as to the rest of the continent."

"I did say that I felt that both the Canadian and the American people would wish to feel, regarding this essential part of the shield and deterrent against war, that a proper