

I have also two additional qualifications to make arising out of the particular circumstances of Canada:

(1) As was explained in our discussions with your Mission, the Canadian interest in Commonwealth telecommunications questions is not of the same order of magnitude as that of some of the other countries of the Commonwealth; in particular, the field of co-operation between Canada and the United States in communications bulks large in proportion to our overseas communications. For that reason, in any discussion of allocation of costs and maintenance of the Commonwealth telecommunications system, the Canadian government will wish to reserve its position until further details have been obtained.

(2) In our discussions with your Mission, it became clear that negotiations with the United States, in which all Commonwealth governments may be concerned, on such topics as direct circuits and rate structures, would be desirable at the earliest possible date. The Canadian government could not take any action, at this stage or in subsequent discussions with the Commonwealth governments in London in respect of the Commonwealth telecommunications system which might prejudice our common interest in reaching, if possible, broader international agreements in this field and, in particular, in securing satisfactory measures of co-operation with the United States. We feel that the London conference should consider not only the form and functions of the central body, but also the manner and timing of the forthcoming negotiations with the United States of America and the policy to be adopted therein.

May I express, on behalf of the Canadian government, our appreciation for the manner in which you and your colleagues have presented the problems of Commonwealth telecommunications and assure you that the Canadian government for its part will continue to co-operate in seeking a solution for them.

Yours sincerely