

An essential step towards world peace is the relief of human suffering occasioned by war and the restoration of the countries physically damaged by war. To that end, the further appropriations you have made for international relief and rehabilitation will be of the utmost service.

Canada's determination to do her full part in maintaining international peace and security has been expressed by the unanimous approval given by both Houses of Parliament to the Charter of the United Nations. A delegation, including members of both Houses, is at present in London attending the meetings of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations Organization.

During October, after a brief conference at Washington with the President of the United States, my Prime Minister visited the United Kingdom for discussion with members of the British government and for consultation with Canadian representatives in Europe. Shortly thereafter the Prime Minister joined with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in conversations with President Truman at Washington on the subject of atomic energy. Their discussions resulted in an agreed Declaration. The initiative was thereby taken in an international effort to prevent the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes and to promote its use for the benefit of mankind. The approval you have given the declaration will further this initiative.

The visit to Ottawa of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and his address to the members of both Houses of Parliament were deeply appreciated. The visit afforded opportunity for an expression of Canada's admiration for the spirit and resolution of the people of Britain in meeting the difficulties and privations of this post-war period.

Efforts to stimulate the expansion of external trade and the restoration of a world economy have been intensified. These ends will be greatly furthered by the vastly increased appropriations you have made for export credits to allied countries and by your approval of Canadian participation in the international Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Negotiations are under way to extend export credits to the United Kingdom. Far-reaching proposals on trade and employment for consideration by an international conference have been advanced by the United States government and are now before you. My Ministers welcome the presentation of these proposals.

With your approval Canada became a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The first meeting of the new organization was held in Quebec City in the month of October.

In November, the Co-ordinating Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference, which includes the Premiers of all the Provinces, devoted several days to a detailed and frank exchange of views with my Prime Minister and other of my Ministers. A Dominion-Provincial Economic Committee was set up by the Co-ordinating Committee to examine and report to the participating governments upon the economic factors affecting Dominion and Provincial proposals and relations. The Co-ordinating Committee will meet again early in the new year. My Ministers are resolved to continue their utmost endeavours to reach an agreement which will place the Federal government and the governments of all the provinces in a financial position to discharge effectively their several responsibilities.

The members of the armed forces serving abroad have been returning to Canada as rapidly as transport facilities would permit. The release of men and women from the forces is keeping pace with repatriation.